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OPINION METER

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NATION



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A day of many firsts

Fitial out, Inos now governor



By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

In less than five hours yesterday, the CNMI saw the resignation of Benigno R. Fitial as governor and the swearing in of both former lieutenant governor Eloy S. Inos as the Commonwealth's eighth governor and former Senate president Jude U. Hofschneider as his lieutenant governor. Like the impeachment, yesterday's turn of events was unprecedented in CNMI history.

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Inos: All up in the air for review

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Newly sworn in Gov. Eloy S. Inos said yesterday that all Cabinet members are up for review, and so are the emergency declarations for the Commonwealth

Utilities Corp. and the Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. as well as the proposed extradition of former attorney general and now fugitive Edward Buckingham.

Inos said he and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider will hold a Cabinet meeting

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Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro Castro, left, administers the oath of office to Eloy S. Inos, center, as the new CNMI governor at past 2pm yesterday, some four hours after Benigno R. Fitial resigned. Also in photo are Inos' daughters Christine holding the microphone, Dora holding the Bible, and Kay looking on at the packed Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe yesterday. Also sworn in was former Senate president Jude U. Hofschneider as the new CNMI lieutenant governor.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



STATEMENT OF BENIGNO R. FITIAL

Editor's Note: The Office of the Governor released the following statement of former governor Benigno R. Fitial, just hours after he stepped down from office yesterday, Feb. 20, 2013.

Today I have submitted my resignation from the Office of the Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands pursuant to Article III, Section 7, of the CNMI Constitution. It has been my honor to serve the people of the Commonwealth since I first assumed this office in January 2006.

I have both the interests of the Commonwealth and personal reasons for taking this action.

These have been difficult times for the people of the Commonwealth. We have suffered from a serious economic depression—more severe than any other state or insular area in

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Local

Word on the street

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO and CLARISSA V. DAVID

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REPORTERS

"The governor's resignation is very good for the CNMI. I really appreciate his resignation. It was better for him to resign because the money they will use for the trial and to hire lawyers would be taxpayer's money. Now that he has resigned, I want to see the government fix our problems with the Retirement Fund and the hospital. Even though the governor already resigned, we still have problems. All elected officials have caused us problems but they keep blaming one another for these problems. Their bad habits are still there."

—Joe Cabrera, San Antonio



"I hope the new leaders can make the island economy better. If they do it right, we'll have a chance. But if they do the same things that Fitial did, then we have nowhere to go."

—Karl Litulumar, Kagman



"I'm glad we're moving on; hopefully, change is for the better."

—Jack Guerrero, As Teo



"The day the governor resigned is the best day. It's great news for everyone. After the resignation, I want to see new things—changes—in the CNMI. I think there will be lots of improvement. I hope the new governor and lieutenant governor will do what he's supposed to do and make better choices."

—Andres Halaby, Capital Hill

"I learned about it during class Wednesday afternoon. My AP U.S. Government and Politics class teacher, Mr. John Davis, told us about the governor's resignation. For me personally, I was kind of expecting it. He resigned before he would go to trial."

—Don Sulat, 15, Marianas High School



"For me it's a sad day. I'm sad for him to leave us, given his years of service. But him stepping down, as what they say, is for the betterment of the community as a whole."

—Jordon Kosam, Commonwealth Ports Authority Police Chief

"Gov. Fitial's resignation is a great thing. When he was governor, bad things happened: we lost many jobs, there was corruption in the government. Now that he resigned, the islands will improve."

—Amberlynnn Kazuo, Marianas High School



"Fitial's resignation is good for everybody. Hopefully after this, we'll have better economy. But it's going to take a while and it would depend on the new governor and lieutenant governor. If they could do their jobs, they maybe they can win back the trust of the people and we can all prosper."

—Schneider Ongiil, Garapan

"I think he's just serving his own self-interests with his resignation. He knows he's going to be found guilty at the trial so he resigned. It's going to be a tough job for the new leaders but I'm sure they will do a better job than Fitial."

—Amelia Johnson, Capital Hill

"I believe it is something unexpected by the community."

—Juan T. Dela Cruz, Commonwealth Ports Authority Ports Police Assistant Chief



"I am not surprised. A lot of people wanted him out and if that's what the people wanted, he had to follow that."

—Jessica Bigueras, 16, Marianas High School



"I was surprised. That's all I can say."

—Joe Demapan, Chalan Kanoa



"He should have resigned a long time ago."

—Amelia Jamila, San Antonio



"We thank the governor for his courage and humane decision. We are now at a starting point wherein the new leader of this Commonwealth will be more sensitive in everything they do for the best interest of the people of the commonwealth. This is also the right time to call on our new governor, Inos, and our legislators to revisit and amend the recommendation about the immigration status of long-term legal workers, to be granted a pathway to citizenship."

—Rene Reyes, founding president of Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs Ltd.

"If he wasn't guilty, he shouldn't have resigned and he should fight to the very end. Fitial was unable to deliver his promises to the people of the CNMI."

—Melchor Tenerife



"On Tuesday, we had our new DPS commissioner. Now we have a new governor. But is it really going to be a new CNMI? I don't think so. Nepotism is still No. 1 in the CNMI. I think if we have new leaders from our younger generation, then we'll have a new CNMI. So we should put education at the top of our agenda. PSS lost a lot of funding over the years. How can we present smart, educated kids to the world if we don't invest more in education?"

—A relative of newly sworn Gov. Eloy S. Inos

Guard in serious condition after hit-and-run

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

A security guard is in serious condition after a vehicle hit him while he was walking on a road in As Perdido on his way to work Sunday night.

Police spokesman Sgt. Thomas Blas Jr. said yesterday that the victim, Matiar Rahman, 43, a Bangladeshi, suffered an open fracture on the left ankle and was admitted into the intensive care unit of the Commonwealth Health Center.

Blas said the vehicle, described by Rahman as dark in color and either a sedan or an SUV, did not stop.

Blas said traffic officers responded on Sunday at 10:37pm to the crash scene that occurred southeast of

Frankie's Auto Shop.

According to preliminary at-scene investigation conducted by traffic officer Jonathan Cepeda, Rahman was walking east in front of Frankie's Auto Shop when a vehicle struck him.

The vehicle did not stop and continued east to the traffic signal light intersection by Guangdong Hardware.

Medics arrived and transported Rahman to CHC.

"Traffic investigators are still working on this case and are seeking the assistance of the community. Anyone having any information about this case is encouraged to call 664-9085 or to remain anonymous, call the Crime Stoppers tips line at 234-7272," Blas said.

A businessman told *Saipan Tribune* on Tuesday that aside

from a fractured leg, Rahman also fractured three backbones.

The businessman, who requested anonymity, disclosed that prior to the incident, Rahman, a security guard of Island Protection Service, was walking on his way to work at MGM Poker in As Lito when he was hit from behind. The vehicle then sped off. The victim still managed to call either his co-worker or 911.

The businessman said police officers recovered at the scene the side mirror of the vehicle.

The businessman urged police to conduct follow-up investigation to catch the driver.

He added that there is no available bone specialist or orthopedic at CHC because one had resigned or left last month.

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Inos extends Fletcher's contract at CUC

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

A few hours after being sworn in as the islands' top official, Gov. Eloy S. Inos directed Alan W. Fletcher to remain at the helm of the troubled utilities corporation, both as its deputy

executive director of water and wastewater and as acting executive director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

Inos indicated Fletcher's retention in his declaration yesterday, approving a 30-day extension on Fletcher's contract. Fletcher was supposed to leave

his post on Feb. 20 after the non-renewal of his two-year contract by resigned governor Benigno R. Fitial.

"Alan W. Fletcher shall have his employment contract, number 11-037, extended for 30 days, and this declaration shall constitute that extension," stated

the declaration.

CUC has been under a state of emergency since May 2012. It has had no permanent executive director since June 2012 when Abe Utu Malae quit.

Inos said that CUC must continue to operate under some form of management un-

til an executive director can be appointed.

"A failure to appoint an acting executive director will prejudice the CUC in its ongoing operations, activities and litigation which will in turn impact the people of the Commonwealth," said Inos.

Fletcher has yet to comment on his contract's extension.

Both deputy director and executive director posts are requirements of federal stipulated orders for CUC. A few months ago, Fitial submitted the top 4 candidates for executive director position to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for concurrence. No decision has been issued to date. The deputy director post was announced last week.

Tinian farmers market eyed

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
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REPORTER

TINIAN—Mayor Ramon M. Dela Cruz said efforts are underway to make a farmers market a reality on the island.

"We're working very hard to open up the Tinian Farmers Market," Dela Cruz said in an interview, adding that the proposed farmers market would be built at the harbor.

Dela Cruz has requested the Department of Public Lands to designate the market site to the Tinian and Aguiguan Municipality so that their office can invest capital improvement project funds to build the market.

He said the market would offer Tinian farmers and ranchers a new venue to promote the island's most important products, cattle and donni sali.

The proposed market would feature stalls where local entrepreneurs can sell their com-

modities, a slaughterhouse, and a "skills station" where residents can receive proper training on how to process donni sali and cattle to create value-added products such as hot pepper powder and beef jerky.

The market, Dela Cruz said, would also be good for Tinian's tourism industry as visitors can stop by the place to buy goods they can bring home.

According to Dela Cruz, members of the Tinian Cattlemen's Association, which he described as "more organized" nowadays, support the proposal since it is in line with their efforts to improve the quality of beef produced on the island.

He said association members work with the Northern Marianas College's Cooperative Research Extension and Education Service to improve the genetics of the cattle on island, using grant funds from the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

Dela Cruz noted that the farmers market would also be an avenue to "protect" the quality of Tinian-made products. He said there are people who make hot pepper products and claim that they are made from *donni sali*, Tinian's small but highly potent pepper.

"They're cheating the customers, so what I plan to do is to have a municipal product

seal that would authenticate the hot pepper products from Tinian. Products that bear the seal would guarantee customers that they are really made from our own *donni sali*," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

But Dela Cruz noted that the farmers market would only get off the ground when DPL designates the proposed site to his office. His designation

request, he added, was also forwarded to former governor Benigno R. Fitial.

Should DPL not support the proposal, Dela Cruz said the other option is to have the Legislature pass a law that would assign the public land to the Tinian and Aguiguan municipality.

"We need some people to actually support us because we feel our hardships on a daily

basis. We know what we want, and we're in the best position to say that," he said.

The municipality also has an existing request to DPL for the transfer of the Tachogna Beach Park to their jurisdiction.

"This is a prime area for visitors and residents. They're [DPL] just restricting our movement. But I'll continue to fight them," said the mayor.

Driver of van that ran over teen able to flee from NMI

By **FERDIE DE LA TORRE**
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REPORTER

Woo Hyun Kim, the alleged driver of a van that sped off after running over a teenager, managed to flee from the CNMI. The teenager later died.

Department of Public Safety spokesman Sgt. Thomas Blas Jr. told *Saipan Tribune* Tuesday that, contrary to earlier police reports, Kim did not return to the CNMI after leaving the islands.

"There is still an active warrant of arrest for the driver," Blas said.

He said the DPS Criminal Investigation Bureau has been communicating with Kim's lawyer about the case.

The DPS spokesman said there are two cases in the death of 19-year-old Jefferson Kiauol Keju: the criminal aspect and the traffic side.

Kim is on the traffic case, Blas said.

Last Jan. 16, police said they were hunting down Kim on charges of failure to exercise due care, accidents, failure to file an accident report, and homicide by vehicle.

At that time, police claimed that Kim left the island on Jan. 3, 2013, two days after the incident, but returned on Jan. 14, 2013.

Superior Court Associate Judge David Wiseman issued a warrant for the arrest of

Kim and imposed a \$100,000 cash bail.

Police said that, on Jan. 12, hikers discovered Kim's van—a silver/aluminum 2012 Toyota Sienna with license plate AED-281—abandoned in a secluded area near Obyan Beach.

Investigators noticed that the damage on the van was consistent with the accident. The van was towed to a secure area where crime scene technicians processed it for evidence.

Investigators said that the Toyota Sienna van was traveling north on the outer lane on the night of Jan. 1, 2013, when it struck Keju, dragging him about 50 feet. The van did not stop.

After the van sped away, a Toyota Hilux pickup truck later ran over the victim. The driver, 22-year-old Aniceto Ogumoro Jr., stopped and called police.

An ambulance brought the victim to the Commonwealth Health Center, where he was pronounced dead the following day, Jan. 2.

Shortly before Keju was hit by the two vehicles, two men chased the victim and assaulted him on the outbound lane of Middle Road in front of LJ Market, leaving him lying unconscious in the middle of the highway.

Police later arrested Herman Fitial, 34, and Felix Kileleman Jr., 19, for allegedly assaulting the victim.

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Senate reorganizes, cancels impeachment trial

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

About an hour before his swearing in as the CNMI's new lieutenant gov-

ernor, then Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider (R-Tinian) held an emergency Senate session not only to accept Gov. Benigno R. Fitial's resignation but also to cancel what was

supposed to be the first impeachment trial in the CNMI, bid his colleagues goodbye, and pave the way for a reorganization.

Senate Vice President Ralph Torres

(R-Saipan) is acting president, but he is expected to be the next president and floor leader Victor Hocog the new vice president when the Senate formally reorganizes on Friday.

The Senate had been preparing for Fitial's impeachment trial when the

Legislature received a copy of Fitial's resignation yesterday morning.

The House impeached Fitial on 18 charges of corruption, felony and neglect of duty. His impeachment trial at the Senate was supposed to start on March 7.



Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja, left, swears in Jude U. Hofschneider, third from left, as new CNMI lieutenant governor, with the former Senate president's family and relatives beside him. Holding the microphone is press secretary Angel Demapan and holding the Bible is Hofschneider's aunt Guadalupe.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

A DAY

From Page 1

"These are very difficult and trying times and it is time to move on," Inos, 63, said in his five-minute inaugural speech at a packed Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe yesterday afternoon.

The change in leadership comes 15 days before Fitial was supposed to face trial at the Senate, at a time when tourism is on the uptick although the overall economy has yet to finally rise from its lowest ebb, coupled with troubled healthcare and pension systems.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro Castro administered the oath of office to Inos, while Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja swore in Hofschneider in a solemn ceremony that took only a little over three hours to organize.

The inauguration, which lasted only 28 minutes, made Inos the first CNMI governor to come from Rota and Hofschneider the first lieutenant governor from Tinian. The House speaker and the new Senate president are from Saipan. Inos and Hofschneider are also both unmarried at this time.

Inos, a former Finance secretary, said there will be "no overnight fixes" but that his administration is committed to work with the CNMI's leaders and the people "to find sensible solutions" to critical issues such as the economy, healthcare, utilities, and the NMI Retirement Fund.

Hofschneider, 42, said in his two-minute inaugural speech, that he stands ready to assist Inos in addressing the challenges ahead.

"Now more than ever is the time for our three branches of government, our business community, and the people of our islands, to work together as we pave the way to a more successful and prosperous future," he said.

Before taking his oath as lieutenant governor, Hofschneider held an emergency Senate session to, among other things, accept Fitial's last communication and bid his farewell to his colleagues he has worked for years. But he said the working partnership will continue.

Fitial's resignation

Fitial personally handed his resignation letter to Inos at 9:40am yesterday, a day

after he was served a writ of summons to appear before the Senate and answer the 18 articles of impeachment against him.

The 18th House of Representatives impeached Fitial on 18 charges of corruption, commission of felony, and neglect of duty. His impeachment trial at the Senate was supposed to start on March 7.

"Let me be clear. I am prepared to present an aggressive defense to the allegations forwarded to the Senate from the House of Representatives. None of the allegations in the House report is an impeachable offense," Fitial said in a statement.

Fitial is the first governor in the CNMI and any U.S. insular area to be impeached.

His resignation—the first for any sitting governor in CNMI history—took effect at 10am yesterday.

Minutes after Fitial went to Inos' office, press secretary Angel Demapan hand-carried Fitial's resignation letters to the offices of House Speaker Joseph Deleon Guerrero (IR-Saipan), main author of the impeachment resolution, and Hofschneider.

Inos said in his remarks, based on a bullet-point draft, that Fitial didn't ask him to go to the former governor's office.

"He came to my office. In a very humble manner, he presented me a letter. And I asked him, what was that for? What's the letter about... I looked at it and the first time I saw it... I almost fell off my chair," said Inos.

Inos and Fitial have decades of friendship. That relationship had been strained in recent years over personal and political issues. Inos is currently the titular head of the Covenant Party, which Fitial formed for his first gubernatorial bid. Fitial rejoined the Republican Party and is again its president.

"I did not expect the governor to do what he did but the letter simply says the time has come for him to step down and it is in the best interest of the Commonwealth community that he did that because he wants to bring people together and so we can move forward," Inos said.

When asked whether Fitial will have a role in his administration, Inos said "no."

Both Inos and Hofschneider thanked Fitial for his years of service to the CNMI. They wished him the best and for his health to improve. They also

thanked their families, friends, colleagues, and the CNMI people.

Fitial said his resignation was not only about legal considerations but also personal ones.

"I am 67 years old and not in good health. I need medical attention that has time and again been sacrificed to emergencies here in the Commonwealth. I want to be here for my children and my grandchildren. And I especially want to be here for my wife Josie, who has made great sacrifices to sustain me while I held office. I need to go to the mainland for my health," he said.

'Real work begins'

Speaker Deleon Guerrero said "the real work now begins," referring to tackling pension, healthcare, utilities and economic issues.

"Let's move forward. I hope we can begin the process of healing now. It's a tumultuous period. I hope we can put it behind us now and move on. We seek the public's help and patience as we begin to make hard decisions," Deleon Guerrero told *Saipan Tribune*.

In the 17th Legislature, Fitial's allies in the House leadership blocked Deleon Guerrero and other members' impeachment resolution. However, voters wiped out almost all of Fitial's candidates in the Nov. 6 mid-term elections, paving the way for most pro-impeachment candidates to win and introduce another impeachment resolution in January.

House Vice Speaker Frank Dela Cruz (IR-Saipan) referred this reporter to his Jan. 14 inaugural speech that created a buzz in the House gallery at the time when he said he's committed to working with all the stakeholders such as the Senate, the Judiciary, "and more importantly, the new administration."

"It's something I felt would happen, and it happened. We have a new administration," he said.

Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP) thanked Fitial "for deciding to save all of us the trouble from what would have been a lengthy trial at the Senate."

"I know this was not an easy decision for him to make but he decided that stepping down was the right thing to do. And for that, I am grateful. I wish Gov. Inos and Lt. Gov. Hofschneider the best as they take on their new positions. And I give them my personal assurance that I will help

where I can," he said.

Former Senate president Paul Manglona said, "It's a new day for the CNMI."

"People are very hopeful and excited now that the governor stepped down. I just wish he could have done it a long time ago. ... This is also a lesson for present and future leaders that when you hold public office, you have to be

INOS

From Page 1

this morning to go over agencies' activities and his expectations.

In an interview after his inauguration, Inos told reporters that he has a "very ambitious agenda" given that he has only less than two years under this term. He was sworn in yesterday as the new CNMI governor after Benigno R. Fitial resigned 15 days before his impeachment trial. Inos is expected to run for governor in the 2014 general elections.

"I don't know if we have enough time. So we try to reprioritize what we're doing and there's a lot of projects on the table right now. But I like those folks to concentrate on, finish and focus on [things] like the tourism task force," he said.

Inos, who oversees government finances, said there is a "review process" when asked whether he will replace all or some of current Cabinet members.

"There is no telling but certainly there is a review process. Everyone is up for review," he told reporters.

He said he will take a look at the agencies' performances and projects.

"We want them to focus on the projects that we think are critical and we give them a timeline to finish and so essentially we are going to be a results-driven administration. We are going to get together [Thursday] and start asking for reports to see if we are meeting the objectives," he said.

He said he will review the emergency

accountable. This is the beginning of a new era in the CNMI," he said at the inauguration.

Rep. Tony Sablan (IR-Saipan), chairman of the special committee that reviewed the impeachment resolution in the 18th Legislature, said that yesterday was "something historic" but there's a lot of work to do to be where the CNMI needs to be.

declarations for CUC and see whether a board of directors can be reinstated.

"What I like to do is maybe take another look at the executive order and I need time to really think about what is the best option," he said.

When asked whether he would extend the contract or rehire Alan Fletcher for CUC, he said he has yet to talk to him. Fletcher was at the inauguration yesterday.

"That's part of what I need to do, although I need to do that right away simply because I understand [yesterday] is his last day in office," Inos said, adding that if anything, he wants "smooth transition" at CUC. Inos later issued a directive extending Fletcher's contract for 30 days. **See story on Page 2.**

Inos said he also has to look at the memorandum from the Office of the Public Auditor on the extradition of Buckingham.

"I'm sure the governor has reasons for not acting on that thing before he left. I want to take a look at what those reasons might be. And maybe take it from there. But certainly that's an issue on the table," he said.

He said for the most part, it was business as usual yesterday.

"I just need to keep in mind I don't have anybody above me to look up to so I am it. I am going to have to just to make sure everything is in order. But I do look up to the lieutenant governor as well for him to pitch in and we are going to be sitting down and start distributing areas of responsibility that we may have oversight on," he said.

volve more and longer confrontations.

However, there are considerations other than legal ones. The citizens of the Commonwealth deserve the best possible opportunity to achieve a better life for themselves and their children. At this time, I think that goal is furthered by my stepping down.

As for my personal reasons, I am 67 years old and not in good health. I need medical attention that has time and again been sacrificed to emergencies here in the Commonwealth. I want to be here for my children and my grandchildren. And I especially want to be here for my wife Josie, who has made great sacrifices to sustain me while I held office. I need to go to the mainland for my health. My resignation frees me to do that without the constant pressure of public matters.

This community is, and will remain, my home. I look forward to living among you as a friend, neighbor, and former public servant with a lifetime commitment to the betterment of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Thank you.

FITIAL

From Page 1

the United States.

I have tried to address the Commonwealth's most serious problems during the past seven years. We have had some successes, but also many disappointments.

The Commonwealth can overcome its difficulties—and find workable solutions to its problems—only if its elected officials are able to work together. This is no longer the case. The impeachment proceedings pending in the Legislature have made it very difficult for me and for the Legislature to focus on the hard decisions involved in providing our people a secure future.

Let me be clear. I am prepared to present an aggressive defense to the allegations forwarded to the Senate from the House of Representatives. None of the allegations in the House report is an impeachable offense. An impeachment trial would be a weeklong confrontation while I presented my defense, and any post-trial proceedings would in-

15 Korean students in public schools fear deportation

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
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REPORTER

Many Korean students in public high schools are in distress due to their unsettled immigration status that will prevent them from graduating, just a few months before the end of the school year.

James Ko, a senior at Saipan Southern High School, said he will miss the most exciting moment in his life due to uncertainties and hassles arising from immigration issues.

Ko is a holder of CW-2 visa that expired last week. Tonight,

he is set to fly back to Korea and where he will continue to take his high school credits online. He has no choice. The federal immigration office gave him only 10 days—upon the expiration of his visa—to leave the island.

Ko, who has been studying on island since third grade, turned 18 last Feb. 22. Pursuant to federal immigration rules, a CW-2 visa can only be provided to CW-1 dependent-children below 18 years of age. Although the same federal rule allows foreign students to stay and study here using an F-1 visa, Ko said this option—if he decides to

take it—will prolong his high school graduation because the Public School System carries different subjects and requirements for graduation. F-1 visa applies to foreign students in private schools.

“This is besides the fact that it will be costly to transfer to private schools at this time,” said Ko yesterday.

He disclosed that there are 15 other Korean high school students at PSS that he knows of who are in a similar situation or are being challenged by the CW-2 issue.

“Despite the fact that we are encumbering various disadvan-

tages for not being a U.S. citizen, the students are giving an absolute effort in accomplishing a successful academic career in high school. We would like to request for another approach that will enable us to continue staying on Saipan with alternative legal status,” he added.

Yelin Lee, 17, is a junior at Saipan Southern High. Next year, she expects to get her diploma and attend graduation. Yesterday, she admitted that she fears being deported before that day. Lee will turn 18 on Dec. 23, 2013, which will automatically render her CW-2 visa invalid.

“I really worked hard for my high school and I am just disappointed that we have to deal with these [immigration] challenges. My studies really matter to me. It’s very discouraging and hindering us from attaining our educational goals,” she told *Saipan Tribune*. A worst-case scenario for her is going back to South Korea. Lee has been studying in the CNMI for 11 years now.

Like Ko, Lee is hopeful that “something” can be worked out soon to address the situation of foreign students who only desire to study here.

Meantime, 18-year-old Dooyong Lee, also from SSHS, was fortunate to secure a “humanitarian parole” that would allow him to stay until his graduation in June this year. But he is also wary of what will happen after this temporary permit to stay expires. Lee is a senior and turned 18 last year.

Korean Community in the CNMI chair Dyungsoo Jeon confirmed with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday the “serious situation” of many of their Korean students. He estimates that there are less than 30 who have similar concerns. A meeting, he said, will be called this week to talk with the students, parents, and lawyers that may help them find a solution.

CHCC eyes release of one-month housing allowance this month

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Hospital employees who have been waiting for their housing allowances may get a fraction of what is owed them after Commonwealth Healthcare Corp. COO and chief financial officer Esther Muña said they may release a one-month check to affected staff this month.

In a report to the corporation’s board of trustees on Friday, Muña said a partial payment of

the housing perk will probably be issued once the corporation receives its reimbursement from the Medicaid program.

It was learned that the employees’ housing benefit has been delayed since July 2012. This amounts to \$600 a month for single employees hired from outside the Commonwealth and \$800 a month for those with families.

As of July 2012, a total of 144 employees were supposed to receive the allowance,

Muña said, amounting to a total of \$104,209.

For August 2012, the number of employees eligible to receive the benefit went down to 140 and this further declined in September to 137.

From July to January 2013, the corporation owes its employees over \$400,000 in housing benefits.

According to Muña, the delay in releasing the allowance was due to funding constraints and not because of any accounting

system failures being experienced by the organization.

Meantime, the corporation was able to pay the housing benefits of two employees from the National Health Service Corp. who have already left the island, she said.

Other former hospital employees who are owed the same benefit are either paid through installments or the entire obligation.

“We don’t have the money now to pay every single one of them, considering we are saving the \$3 million, whether to pay the [Marianas Public Land Trust] loan or not,” Muña told the board.

Based on the financial reports submitted to the board, the cor-

poration has in its cash account \$6.344 million as of Jan. 31, 2013. This amount includes the \$3 million it reserved to pay for the MPLT loan.

No clear direction

Muña told the board that the hospital management still counts the housing benefit up to now because there is no clear direction on the matter.

The board approved last year the elimination of the housing allowance due to scarce resources.

Early interviews with corporation CEO Juan N. Babauta

also indicated that the housing allowance would be considered in the salary adjustment of employees when their contract comes up for renewal.

“There’s a discussion before I came back that housing allowance is going to be eliminated. I am not sure if it’s the same direction of the board,” Muña said.

For the first quarter of the fiscal year—from October 2012 to January 2013—the corporation posted actual revenue of \$5.7 million against early projections of \$6.9 million.

SSHS swimming pool project faces more delays

By **MONETH G. DEPOSA**
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A plan to build a swimming pool at Saipan Southern High School faces more delays following disclosure that the proposed undertaking, after three years, remains on hold due to funding issues and concerns raised by the Board of Education.

Marylou Ada, chairperson of the BOE capital improvement project committee, said the board has also asked the Public School System to submit a risk management report that will help the board identify a “clear direction” for the project.

BOE approved the swimming pool project in September 2009 after SSHS secured a \$200,000 grant from the Northern Marianas Housing Corp.’s community development block grant.

However, this amount was re-programmed by NMHC in 2011 to pay a portion of the government’s utility expenses. SSHS was promised the inclusion of the project in future CDBG funding.

Ada told the board that the housing corporation has yet to commit funds for this purpose.

She also has concerns over the degree of PSS liability if NMHC funds the project since the pool will be built inside PSS property.

Board chair Herman T. Guerrero advised the CIP committee to review the original project proposal for better guidance and reference. He also asked about the maintenance and operational costs that PSS will incur once the project is implemented.

When the project was first proposed and approved, board members said the swimming pool would be another venue for students to become physi-

cally active. There was also a plan then to offer swimming lessons to high school students as part of their physical education class.

At the time, the school’s education tax credit was identified as a means to maintain the facility.

There was also a plan to open the pool to the community and organizations for a minimal fee.

Ada also reported to the board that SSHS’ green energy project remains pending. The green energy project, funded by the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, is awaiting a

response from the Department of Energy this month.

The U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife put the PSS green energy project on hold in 2011 after determining that the project has failed to secure a permit from the federal agency to build wind turbines at SSHS.

The CNMI Division of Energy received \$6.5 million from the U.S. Department of Energy for renewable energy projects, \$2.4 million of which was given to PSS for the installation of wind turbines and solar panels at 11 schools.

DISCONNECTION NOTICE

IT&E would like to remind its customers that payments not received by close of business on **February 21**, will result in temporary suspension of all telephone services after 6:00 p.m. on that day. To prevent temporary suspension, customers must pay their bills on or before **February 21**.

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Historic Inauguration

Photos by HAIDEE V. EUGENIO



Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro Castro swears in Eloy S. Inos as the CNMI's new governor, hours after Benigno R. Fitial resigned, at a solemn and orderly ceremony at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe yesterday afternoon. With Inos are his daughters and sister. Foreground, media and community members want a closer photograph of the ceremony's highlight.



Gov. Eloy S. Inos delivers his inaugural speech.



Former Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider, foreground right, is surrounded by family members as Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja administers the oath of office for the CNMI's new lieutenant governor.



Members of the Department of Public Safety's Color Guard stand at attention while waiting for the ceremony to start.



Newly sworn-in Gov. Eloy S. Inos with U.S. Labor Ombudsman Pamela Brown.



Newly sworn-in Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider with Marianas Visitors Authority board chair and DFS Galleria president Marian Aldan-Pierce, center.



Fr. Ryan Jimenez, left, with judges and justices.



Gov. Eloy S. Inos is flanked by former Senate president Paul Manglona, left, and Sen. Jovita Taimanao (Ind-Rota).



Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan (Ind-MP), left, and Gov. Eloy S. Inos.



Gov. Eloy S. Inos with Alan Fletcher, acting executive director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.



Gov. Eloy S. Inos signs his appointment letters, while Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja, left, and Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro Castro look on.



Dignitaries and community members sing the U.S. and CNMI National Anthems during the inauguration of Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos as the new governor and Senate President Jude U. Hofschneider as the new lieutenant governor.



Gov. Eloy S. Inos with his family.



Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider signs his appointment letters as Superior Court Presiding Judge Robert Naraja, left, and Supreme Court Chief Justice Alexandro Castro look on.



Gov. Eloy S. Inos and Lt. Gov. Jude U. Hofschneider share a light moment.



Gov. Eloy S. Inos with Rep. Janet Maratita (IR-Saipan).

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF
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POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS**

COMMONWEALTH GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES CREDIT UNION, Plaintiff,	CIVIL ACTION NO. 05-0382 NINTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE
---	---

-v-

**MARIANO S.
NAPUTI,
Defendant.**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on November 3, 2006, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 002 G 334, situated in Kagman II, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 929 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 002 G 08, the original of which was recorded on May 14, 1990, as document No. 90-1905, at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, March 1, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 23rd day of January, 2013:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

**IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS**

THE FINANCIAL & INSURANCE SERVICES GROUP, INC., Plaintiff,	CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0458 THIRD AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE
---	---

-v-

**DONALD C. CAMACHO,
Defendant.**


NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on May 4, 2011, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot 001 C 60 (formerly part of Lot 001 C 56. Which was part of Lot 001 C 26, which was part of original Lot 001 C 05, T.D. 697), situated in San Roque Village, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 001 C 12, the original of which was recorded 27 August 1999 as Document No. 99-2037 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office, Saipan.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, March 8, 2013, at the hour of 1:30 p.m., at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 29th day of January, 2013:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

 **COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS**
PSS HEAD START PROGRAM
P.O. BOX 501370, SAIPAN, MP 96950

Head Start Policy Council Agenda

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Head Start Policy Council hereby gives notice that it will have a Regular Meeting on Friday, February 22, 2013 at 9:00 am, Tanapag Head Start Resource Center, Tanapag Saipan.

I. Preliminary Matters

1. Call to Order
2. Roll Call
3. Quorum
4. Adoption of Agenda
5. Adoption of Minutes:
a. January 11, 2013 (Regular Meeting)
b. February 07, 2013 (Special Meeting)

II. Public Comments

III. Communication

1. From the State Board of Education
2. From the Office of Head Start

IV. Monthly Reports

1. Director
2. Managers
3. Interim Finance Director
4. Interim Human Resource Director
5. HPC Standing Committees
6. Center Representatives

V. Old Business

1. Approval of SY 2012-2013 Written Service Area Plans

VI. New Business

Action Items:

1. Approval of SY 2012-2013 Self-Assessment Plan & Timeline
2. Approval of SY 2012-2013 Community Assessment Plan & Timeline
3. Approval of Parent Activity Fund proposals
 - Comprehensive Service Plan (P3)
 - Public School System-wide Accreditation
 - Fiscal Year 2013 Triennial Review Notification Letter & Review Planning meeting
 - 45/90 Day Requirement Updates
 - SY 2013-2014 Recruitment Plans

2. Miscellaneous Matters

3. Executive Session

4. Next Meeting

5. Adjournment

This meeting is open to the public, interested individuals are welcome to attend. Any person(s) requiring special accommodations may contact Ms. Annie Santos at (670) 664-3751/3761 or email address at ana.santos@cnmipss.org several days notice is required.

/s/ Antonio Mesngon
Chairperson

¹ Pursuant to 1CMC § 9912, the Council may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is inviting qualified applicants to apply for the following positions:

Accountant
Associate's Degree in Finance or Accounting with at least 3 years work-related experience in general accounting procedures with emphasis on receivables and payable management. Proficient in the use of SAP R3 FICO system and MS Excel, Word and PowerPoint software. Must be able to work under time pressure and must work flexible hours. CPA not required.

Associate Editor
Associates degree in Journalism, Creative Writing, English, or any other related course with at least 5 years experience, including newsroom management, story evaluation, and production. Must have strong rewriting, headlining, and proofreading skills and must be able to meet tight deadlines. Preferably with an extensive experience in sports writing.

Circulations Officer
Associates degree in Business Administration, Accounting or any related course. Minimum of 2 years work-related experience in a newspaper or magazine publication. Good oral and written communication skills and proficient in MS Word, Excel & PowerPoint. Must be self-motivated with strong organizational skills to help manage newspaper circulation assignments. Must have dependable transportation and able to work early mornings and evening hours.

Reporter
Associates degree in Journalism, Creative Writing, English, or any related course with at least 3 years work-related experience; Above-average writing skills and a competent grasp of grammar and syntax; With rigorous standards for accuracy and detail; Ability to work within deadlines and in a stressful environment; Knowledgeable in all types of writing, including news and features; With photography skills.

Applications can be obtained and submitted at Saipan Tribune, Inc. office located at JP Center Building in Beach Road, Garapan. Salaries will commensurate with qualifications and experience. To be considered, applications must be submitted no later than 5:00pm, Thursday, February 28, 2013.

Saipan Tribune, Inc. is an Equal Opportunity Employer.
Qualified women, minorities and disabled persons are encouraged to apply

MIFICPA to host tax seminar

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Marianas Institute of Filipino CPAs and Accountants will be hosting its first tax seminar for 2013. "Tax Updates 2013" is slated for March 2, Saturday, from 1pm to 5pm at the Charley's Cabaret of Pacific Islands Club.

The seminar will feature David J. Burger, CPA and director for Burger & Comer, PC Certified Public Accountants, who will discuss FICA tax issues, differentiate the types of corporation, changes in tax laws, residency requirements, income within and without, income distribu-

tion-treatment, and trust discussion, among other topics.

Registration begins at 12:30pm, with a \$20 fee for MIFICPA members, which is inclusive of the \$5 membership renewal. Non-members and non-accountants are also welcome to participate for also \$20, inclusive of light snacks and a certificate of participation.



Santos

MIFICPA president Noli O. Santos said yesterday that they annually host a tax seminar weeks ahead of the due dates set by the Division of Revenue & Taxation to assist accountants and non-accountants in their tax filing and update them about any changes

Zoe Jewell named to KU honor roll

LAWRENCE, KS—More than 4,450 undergraduate students at the University of Kansas earned honor roll distinction for the fall 2012 semester, including Zoe Jewell, of Saipan. She is the daughter of Glenn and Stephanie Jewell of Saipan. She attended Saipan International School.



Jewell

Jewell, a freshman at KU, was named to the honor roll for the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences.

The honor roll comprises undergraduates who meet requirements in the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences and in the

schools of Allied Health; Architecture, Design and Planning; Business; Education; Engineering; Journalism and Mass Communications; Music; Nursing; Pharmacy and Social Welfare.

Honor roll criteria vary among the university's academic units. Some schools honor the top 10 percent of students enrolled, some establish a minimum grade-point average and others raise the minimum GPA for each year students are in school. Students must complete a minimum number of credit hours to be considered for the honor roll. (PR)

in tax laws.

"It is important because as accountants, we should be aware or update ourselves especially when there's new changes in tax laws," Santos told *Saipan Tribune*.

Santos also noted that taking part in these seminars help accountants and non-accountants in their professional development.

According to Santos, their group has yet to decide whether to offer further seminars.

"We will let them know. But for now, our focus is to have a tax seminar that will assist the public

in their tax filing," he added.

Santos encouraged interested participants to email their questions in advance to facilitate the question-and-answer segment of the seminar. All questions would be addressed by the speaker at the event.

For more information, contact any of the following MIFICPA officers: Noli Santos at 285-6810 or nolsantos@yahoo.com; Aileen Indino at 287-0305 or aileenindino@hotmail.com; or Butch Ordas at 789-9276 or butchordas@yahoo.com.

Ex-convict arrested anew for alleged wife beating

A convicted sex offender was arrested Monday for allegedly beating up his common-law wife, including hitting her with a car antenna, at their house in China Town.

Ivan Jones Castro, 36, was taken to Superior Court on Tuesday for his initial appearance on charges of assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Associate Judge Joseph N. Camacho maintained the \$10,000 cash bail imposed on Castro.

Police detective Melissa H. Bauleong stated in her report that the alleged beating happened on the evening of Feb. 5, 2013. Castro also allegedly pulled the victim's hair and slapped her twice.

Bauleong said the wife man-

aged to escape from the alleged beating by carrying their two children into the bushy area by the Garapan Central Park where she called police.

The detective said that, on Feb. 5 at 10:21pm,

Police officer Jason Tarkong received the call from the victim, who was screaming and crying. Tarkong then met the victim at the Garapan Central Park.

The victim reportedly told police that Castro is jobless and is involved in selling methamphetamine or "ice." Bauleong said the victim also confessed to using illegal drugs.

In 2003, Castro pleaded guilty to sexually abusing a 13-year-old girl in 2002. He was sentenced to five years in jail, but was reduced later to four years because of "good conduct." (Ferdie de la Torre)

CRIME OF THE WEEK

Engine theft at Smiling Cove

Crime Stoppers is seeking the public's help for information on a theft of a boat engine at the Smiling Cove Marina, Garapan.

The boat is described as a 14-foot locally made fiberglass skiff type. It has a white hull, with blue interior. The engine was last seen on the boat on Tuesday night, Feb. 12, 2013, by the owner. The boat was docked at far west end of inner Smiling Cove Marina.

The next day the engine was missing and reported to

the police. The missing boat engine is described as a gray Yamaha 2-stroke, 25-horsepower outboard engine valued at over \$2,000.

DPS and Crime Stoppers need your help. Please contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 should you want to remain anonymous or use our website at www.nmicrimestoppers.net Crime stoppers pays up to \$1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. (Crime Stoppers)

Sendoff for deploying Guam Guard battalion

A sendoff ceremony will be held for the soldiers of the Guam Army National Guard's 1st battalion, 294th Infantry Regiment on Feb. 22, Friday, at 2pm at the University of Guam Fieldhouse in Mangilao.

The ceremony will mark the upcoming deployment of some 600 soldiers from the battalion in support of Operation Enduring Freedom-Afghanistan.

The unit received a "Notification of Sourcing" in April 2011 and was told to prepare for a possible deployment to Afghanistan in 2013. In April 2012, the battalion received an official "Alert Order" that

allowed the unit to ramp up training for possible deployment. Then in August last year, the unit received its mobilization orders, formalizing the mission of the battalion.

The 1-294th Infantry Regiment is composed of soldiers from Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The activation of the 1-294th Infantry Regiment can be considered as the largest group of reserve component troops to be mobilized and deployed from Guam.

The ceremony will be open to the public. (PR)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Feb. 21, 2004

Adriano offers support to 'stateless' bill

From the Senate standpoint, acting Gov. Joaquin G. Adriano pledged yesterday his support behind the legislation proposing to grant 'stateless' individuals permanent CNMI residency status. If he had it his way, the acting chief executive said he would have already signed the bill--the proposed Stateless Children Act of 2004 or House Bill 14-97--into law. "As soon as that thing comes to the Senate, I pledge my support that we should grant these people their permanent residency. And if that thing has been done and I'm sitting right here now as acting governor, I will sign that bill right away," the Senate president assured yesterday.

Ex-CUC officials have outstanding travel accounts

The over \$17,000 remaining outstanding travel advances listed by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. included trips made way back in 1996 by former CUC and non-CUC officials such as senators Thomas P. Villagomez and Joaquin G. Adriano, and Rota Mayor Benjamin T. Manglona. Latest records showed that these officials are among the 20 individuals who have yet to account for \$17,230 worth of travel money from CUC. As of Feb. 11, 2004, CUC said that Sen. Villagomez has yet to account for a total of \$3,826 for travels he made in Feb. 1997 and in July 2000. Acting Gov. Adriano has \$480 outstanding account for a June 2002 travel. Rota's Manglona has yet to account for \$140 for his travel in Nov. 2002.

Feb. 21, 2005

NMI to revive livestock artificial insemination

To improve the meat quality of livestock, the CNMI should take a long and careful look at reviving its artificial insemination project, according to Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Service agricultural consultant Isidoro Cabrera. He said the project would help solve the problem of "inbreeding" that leads to the drop in meat quality, meat production, and livestock being more prone to diseases. NMC and the Department of Land and Natural Resources are reportedly mulling the resuscitation of the project. Cabrera recalled that a similar initiative was conducted from 1996 to 1998 in cooperation with Agricultural Development in the American Pacific. The project, however, was discontinued due to problems in funding and semen quality.

CPA signs concession pact with LSG

The Commonwealth Ports Authority approved on Friday an agreement granting LSG Lufthansa Service Saipan Inc. a non-exclusive right to operate a food and beverage concession at the Saipan International Airport. Unlike CPA's previous contract with DFS Saipan Limited, the new agreement with LSG gives the ports authority a greater role in the operation of the concession, including areas relating to the type of food and beverage served and the physical appearance of the restaurant. "This new provision addresses an ongoing issue we have with LSG when we see need for certain kinds of services to be provided at the concession. In the past, we had only a suggesting role; the new agreement gives CPA more role in deciding the makeup of concessions at the airport," said CPA executive director Carlos Salas.

Feb. 21, 2006

'No loan discrimination vs nonresidents'

While some banks have stopped granting loans to nonresident workers based on "irregular" employment status in the CNMI, Bank of Hawaii said it continues to treat contract workers the same way it does all other loan applicants. Honolulu-based BoH executive vice president Ronald H. Leach said the bank follows the same criteria for all applicants when it comes to credit or loan applications. He said that, although the bank made some changes in its credit program in view of overall economic condition in the Commonwealth, it makes no distinction against a certain group of people.

CUC posts \$19M loss in FY 2005

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. sustained a deficit of almost \$19 million last fiscal year, due largely to the skyrocketing cost of fuel. According to CUC's unaudited financial statement for FY 2005, the utility earned total revenues amounting to \$84.47 million. CUC's expenses totaled \$103.33 million between October 2004 and September 2005. This resulted in a net loss of \$18.86 million. CUC data showed that the utility firm collected \$82.21 million in operating revenues last year.



ON THE AIR

Marianas Visitors Authority Tinian's Vicky Borja, left, talks about the festival on air with the assistance of KKMP's Rosemond Santos at the festival grounds during the 9th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Tinian last Saturday.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

CDA to auction seven properties on Friday

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Development Authority is set to auction off seven foreclosed properties estimated at \$365,000 on Feb.

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUTS



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Cecilia Rios Alvarez! May God bless you with many more birthdays to come! We hope you have a wonderful birthday! Greetings come from Miguel and Mikilyna Naputi, Vianney, Jerome, Connie, Eli, Julianne Mettao, Kionie, and John Wayne Arriola.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday to Marie Babauta who is celebrating her birthday today, Feb. 21! May you have a blessed and healthy future in the years to come! Enjoy your day! Greetings come from the IBSS staff and family.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Happy birthday greetings to our hero, best friend, and the person we will forever call father, stepfather and grandfather, the amazing Jose R. Sablan! May your day be filled with lots of love and happiness, with many more to come! Enjoy your special day and we love you. Greetings come from your wife Diane, Ryan, Randall, Jodian, Che, Gaven, Tosh, Sayuri, friends, and family.

22, Friday, at 2pm at the CDA conference room.

Loan manager Oscar Camacho said two of the properties are located on Saipan, four are on Tinian, and one is on Rota.

The Saipan properties involve a parcel of land in Chalan I Rueda in Garapan, which measures 21,851 square meters with an appraised value of \$240,000, while the second property found in As Lito measures 1,100 sq.

m. and valued at \$8,000.

The Tinian properties consist of a parcel of land located along a paved road across Kammer Beach in San Jose measuring 720 sq. m. and valued at \$7,000; a 10,000 sq. m. land in Carolinas and appraised at \$30,000; a 500 sq. m. land in San Jose valued at \$32,000; and another San Jose property measuring 1,048 sq. m. and appraised at \$43,000.

Meanwhile, the Rota property is located in Mananana and measures 29,092 sq. m. with a market value of \$35,000.

Camacho said all seven properties are judgments entered in 2012. He noted that the appraised values for these properties are based on the most current appraisal conducted by CDA.

Friday's auction will not require a minimum bid, accord-

ing to Camacho.

"But we will try to target at least the appraisal amounts. If the bidder does not meet the appraised value, then we will try to figure out if their offer is close enough," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Camacho said that the auction will also feature other foreclosed properties now owned by CDA.

"We're going to put out all our

foreclosed properties on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota to allow interested individuals to look at them and see if they want to own any of these properties through different arrangements available such as lease with purchase option," he explained.

The successful bidder for each property, Camacho added, will have to make a deposit of 10 percent of the purchase price on the day of the auction.

MINA to host climate change workshop for high school students

In an effort to increase awareness on climate change in the CNMI, the Mariana Islands Nature Alliance will be hosting three separate workshops for teachers and student government leaders on Feb. 23, March 2, and March 23, 2013.

The workshops, titled "Schools for Environmental Change," will give students and teachers the opportunity to learn about climate change and its impacts on the CNMI.

"Climate change is a global

concern and these workshops will help schools move toward climate change adaptation," said Rica Dela Cruz, MINA project manager.

Students and teachers will learn from local experts such as Robbie Greene, a NOAA fellow from the Coastal Resources Management Office; Greg Moretti, director of Pacific Marine Resources Institute; Kaitlin Mattos, watershed coordinator from Division of Environmental Quality; John Furey, long time

environmental educator; and Andre Kozij, Northern Marianas College ecology teacher.

Participants will be coming from Marianas High School, Saipan Southern High School, Kagman High School, Mount Carmel High School, Northern Marianas Academy, and AmeriCorps.

As part of the workshops' activities, students and teachers will be going on a field trip to Managaha to learn about coral reef bleaching and beach ero-

sion in a real-life setting.

"The workshops are not only a great way to increase awareness of climate change on the island, but it will also give students and teachers the chance to learn from local experts in the field," said Dela Cruz. "MINA is very excited to be hosting climate change workshops targeting schools!"

Although this workshop is restricted to high school students and teachers, there are other opportunities for the community

to learn about climate change as well. The CNMI Climate Change Working Group and the Pacific Islands Managed and Protected Areas will be conducting a climate change adaptation workshop and training from March 4-8 that will be open to the public. They welcome anyone who is interested to join. For details and registration, contact Robbie Greene at RobbieGreene.CRM@gmail.com or visit www.ClimateCNMI.net. (MINA)



TEAM JC CAFÉ

Members of the Team JC Café smile for the camera at the 9th Annual Tinian Hot Pepper Festival on Tinian. Team JC Café won second place in the Dragon Boat Race.

CLARISSA V. DAVID

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Survivors, caregivers support meeting today

All people facing cancer, their family members, and caregivers are invited to the next Commonwealth Cancer Association monthly support meeting today, Feb. 21, 2013, starting at 5:30pm at the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Chamolinian Room. The guest speakers are Ronald Sablan, director of Medical Referral, and Nola Hix and Bo Palacios, MMAC 2013 Survivors Sub-Committee chairs. To RSVP or for more information, call the CCA at 682-0050 or email at ccamarianas@gmail.com. (CCA)

Masters volleyball tournament

The Marianas High School Class of 1983 would like to invite everyone to a masters softball tournament this Sunday, Feb. 24, 2013, at 11am, Dandan Elementary School field, continuing every Sunday until June 2013. For more information, call Tonnei at 483-9665. (PR)

Tinian Municipal Council sets session

The 14th Tinian Municipal Council will be having a regular session on Monday, Feb. 25, 2013, at 10am, at the Municipal Council Conference Room.

Written comments on agenda items may be submitted to the Council Clerk at the municipal council office, prior to the convening of the session. Oral testimony may be presented during Council's session. If you wish to present oral testimony, inform the Council Clerk no later than 24 hours prior to the session. (PR)

ARC Preparedness Health & Safety training set

The American Red Cross is scheduled to conduct Preparedness Health & Safety training on the following dates:

■ Feb. 21 at 6pm: Adult

First Aid/CPR/AED Blended Learning

■ Feb. 27 at 6pm: Pediatric CPR/AED

■ Feb. 28 at 6pm: Adult CPR/AED Blended Learning

Classes are held at the chapter training room on Airport Road. Blended Learning courses involve online courses with in-person skills exam. Course fees apply. For more information on the courses listed or other certification courses, contact the chapter office at 234-3459 or visit www.redcross.org/take-a-class. (PR)

Air Force training at

Warning Area 517

The U.S. Air Force will conduct training at Warning Area 517 on Friday, Feb. 22, from 9am to 2pm. The public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots, and marine tour operators—are advised to stay clear from the area during the times and dates indicated. W-517 is activated south of latitude 12° 00' 00"N. All vessels are advised to remain clear of W-517 south of latitude 12° 00' 00"N. Santa Rosa Reef and Galvez Bank are open for public use. W-517 is an irregular shaped polygon comprising 14,000 nautical

square miles of airspace that begins south of Guam and extends south-southwest in international waters. (PR)

Public library offer rummage sale space

To coincide with the monthly Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Book Sale, the library will be providing space for a rummage/parking lot sale on Saturday, Feb. 23, 2013, from 7:30am to 1pm. The cost is \$25 for a 10x20 space. Reserve a slot as space is limited. All proceeds collected will be used for Joeten-Kiyu Public Library and JKPL anniversary celebration. (JKPL)

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

THE CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXIII, Issue No. 37Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Free to embrace democracy

After 20 unsuccessful tries in five years, Yoani Sanchez, Cuba's most famous blogger, is free.

She is among the first opposition journalists to be approved for travel under Raul Castro's new rules that eliminated the exit permit, which until last month had been required of all Cuban citizens by Fidel Castro's revolution for five decades. Of course, Cuban authorities aren't giving the green light to all Cubans. The dictatorship can still nix travel plans for certain Cubans, such as doctors, claiming it's a matter of "national security."

Indeed, several other Cuban dissidents and opposition leaders have not been allowed to travel outside Cuba. But Ms. Sanchez's international acclaim—she has won various prestigious awards for her blog posts about life in Cuba, including named one of the world's 100 most influential people by Time magazine in 2008—made it tough for Cuban officials to turn down her request to travel. It would have once again exposed the blunt fine print in Cuba's so-called liberalized travel rules.

So now Ms. Sanchez has a three-month permit to travel. For the first time, she will be able to post her blog without having to send it surreptitiously to friends abroad for posting to bypass the Cuban government's censors. On arrival in Brazil, she was embraced by supporters and predictably blasted by pro-Castro leftist protesters.

No matter. Ms. Sanchez, who lived for a short time in Switzerland in 2002 where she learned computer science before returning to Cuba to find she couldn't leave again, sent out a tweet Monday after arriving in the northeastern city of Recife and later Salvador, Brazil:

"At the arrival many friends were welcoming me and other people yelling insults. I wish it would be the same in Cuba. Long live freedom!" she told her 409,000-plus followers on Twitter. (The irony is not lost that her followers are abroad because Cuba blocks her posts so that Cubans cannot see them.)

She called the protests, which some Brazilian newspaper reports say are being coordinated with the Cuban regime, "a shower of democracy and pluralism," once again focusing on what makes a nation free: the power of the individual to protest.

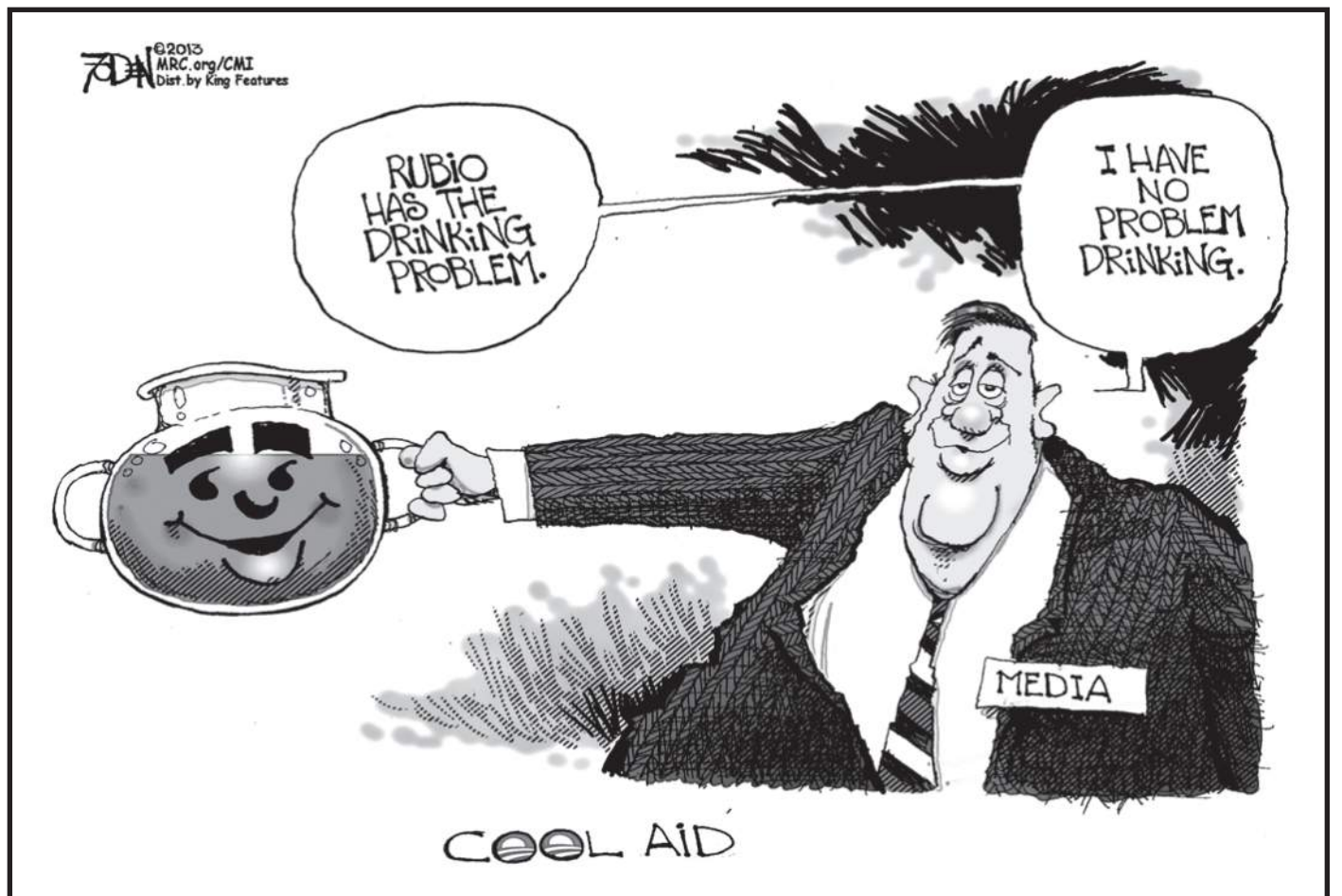
"The Recife airport was a place for embraces," she wrote on Twitter. "There were flowers, gifts and even a group of people insulting me which, I confess, I really enjoyed, because it allowed me to say that I dream that 'one day people in my country will be able to express themselves against something publicly like this, without reprisals.'"

"Later I also looked at an Internet so fast I could barely understand it, without censored pages and without officials looking over my shoulder at the pages I visit."

There will be many stops ahead for the 37-year-old activist-writer who has made her Generation Y blog an international phenomenon. From the Czech Republic and Spain to Mexico and Peru, with New York and Florida on the itinerary, too, Ms. Sanchez is well-prepared for the protesters trying to defame her by suggesting she is "financed by the CIA."

Asked about copies of U.S. dollar bills thrown at her by protesters and their cries of alleged CIA links—all coordinated by Cuban diplomats, according to a story published by

See FREE on Next Page



The pozzolan myth

By DR. THOMAS D. ARKLE JR.
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

In the last few weeks, several proposals to "rescue the Retirement Fund" have been proffered by a range of individuals including self-appointed Commonwealth Retirement Association spokespersons Benavente and Camacho, along with Sen. Yumul and Rep. Taitano. (See the post: cnmiretirement.com/2013/02/16/senate-and-house-ad-hoc-committee-recommendations). Many of you may recall the controversy of early to mid-2005, commonly referred to as "the pozzolan wars." There was myself (presented as the face of Azmar International), and on the opposing "side": Cinta Kaipat, Peter Pangelinan, and the infamous Dr. Jesus Camacho (of California—remember Paganwatch recruited him as their "credentialed counterpart"?), *et al.*

Remember the arguments and statements? Well, it's now old news. However, the recent spate of statements by uninformed dreamers has given cause to sound the bell of alarm once again. The recent column by William H. Stewart also debunked much of these "dreams" as well as comments from more experienced readers such as "Captain" who stated in part: "In regards to Pozzolin [sic], it is too abundant in other parts of the world and readily accessible."

The research *has* been done—and I presented most of that in my series of letters—including the economic analyses that were undertaken along with USGS surveys, reports, private entity reports, analyses, etc. There was a *mountain* of information there.

It *was* feasible—at that time—and Azmar had the money, the mining, the shipping, and the buyers. The problem was CNMI politricks! Attempts at outright bribery (by persons who shall remain anonymous) claiming to be able to secure the permits for Azmar were soundly rebuked in deference to more honorable business methods and from that point on everything went downhill with a totally misleading and disastrous campaign by opponents.

We had hundreds of pages of authenticated technical support, signed commitments from the biggest surface mining operator in the world, signed shipping commitments, complete infrastructure development plans (all to be turned over to the CNMI free of charge after 15 years), signed commitments from the world's largest cement buyer and producer (a Kuwaiti who controlled 50 percent of the world's cement production) and an in-the-bank \$30 million start-up check—but none of that mattered. Our documents were either "hidden" by those very persons who demanded them, or "lost" or simply disbelieved.

We gave up in late 2005.

It was soon determined that the project was no longer viable even though a couple of other ill-fated attempts were made by "other" companies. Our earlier reports had indicated that Pagan pozzolan had already (by 2005) been allowed to lay fallow too long (since 1983). It was beginning to deteriorate and its former high quality was dissolving. Our estimates were still at 200 million metric tons (in 2005) of high quality pozzolan that would have yielded (with royalties, taxes, etc.) a direct income to the CNMI of about \$30 mil-

lion to \$40 million annually for 15 to 18 years under the Azmar plan. The peripheral benefits would have yielded much more through employment, infrastructure, etc. We also had a complete land reclamation system ready to go (I was in charge of that and the plan was complete).

Volcanic ash of the type spewed out on Pagan in 1982 is particularly useful in the hardening of cement used for large structures IF it contains a high enough percentage of certain minerals. The Pagan ash was of such quality. However, as with most "minerals" that lie around on the surface, especially in a highly corrosive tropical environment such as that found on Pagan, they deteriorate over time; ever more rapidly as more years pass. Such is the Pagan story—as much as 5 percent or more per year may be "lost" after the first 15 years pass (the Pagan ash is now 30 years old). The "ash" is broken down to ever smaller size; some is swept away by high winds (ever been there during a typhoon?); some is "absorbed" into underlying layers of soil (useless); some is simply leached out by heavy rains and runoff; and lastly, infiltration of organic matter renders its quality as "low" at best and perhaps even useless.

It now has been determined by several sources, including the CNMI government's own "expert," that there may be less than 40-50 million metric tons left and even that has a quality so deteriorated that better quality (fresher) pozzolan is more readily available in several other locations around the world—much cheaper (as pointed out by "Captain"). Azmar had originally estimated that we could begin mining by 2006 and by 2020 (approximate) the remaining amount and quality would no longer make the venture sustainable. By now (2013), there simply isn't enough to make *any* investment profitable (even the previous 200 m/t was close to minimal). We had estimated about a \$60 million start-up cost (now, at least \$100 million), the barest of profit within three years and a 7-percent profit thereafter. Present day: It simply cannot be done! Do the math.

None of that was believed. Cinta Kaipat and her group put out information that the pozzolan was actually worth more than a couple *billion* dollars to the CNMI—if the CNMI government did it themselves instead of allowing some "outsider" to "steal" all the profits. They even argued that the Federal Bureau of Land Management under its rules would be a better deal. Wrong! We also did the research with the BLM and compared it to actual BLM rules for surface mining that was happening in California at the time. Under BLM rules, if pozzolan mining were to occur in the CNMI under their licensing, the actual monetary realization by the CNMI would have amounted to a paltry \$5 million or so per year and all the rest of the "profit" would have been taken outside the CNMI! They (Cinta, Peter and Jesus) didn't believe it!

Azmar had a signed a promissory contract to sell the pozzolan at \$35 to \$40 dollars per metric ton FOB. Cinta offered that this was way too cheap and her "group" could get as much as \$100/mt! Of course the actual world market price for *high quality* pozzolan was already set at \$35/mt and it was agreed upon and fair—especially since regular grade ash was going for less than

See POZZOLAN on Next Page

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Hinalom Kuaresma

By **JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands.

Gi mapos na Mietkoles i tutuhon tiempon kuaresma, un patte gi kalendarium mañgatoliku ‘nai marepasa finapos i Nanalibreta gi tanu’.

Hana ma’aggem siñienteghu ‘an hu li’e i dos saina makikilili’ famaguon niha gi fina’ seremoñas deste sinisa yan tinayuyot estasion siha.

I relihion Katoliku patte petmanente gi kuttura yan tradision este siha na islas. Pot esso na deste antes man-asianu i mañaina gi finana’guen i Saina.

Este na tinituhon ‘nai talulog famaguonta respetu yan tai achai-gua na finana’guen i Sainata. Estague’ i pisu yan añklan kada unu i linala’ espirituat. Estague’ ‘nai siempre un’ soda ginefsagamu yangin enfin un’ sedi i Saina pumatte gi ha’ animu.

FREE

From Page 10

Brazil’s influential magazine, *Veja*—Ms. Sanchez took it in with her usual calm.

“That doesn’t surprise me, it’s part of an information war,” she said.

Cuba’s most famous blogger knows of what she speaks.

©2013 The Miami Herald

EPA botches oversight of car mileage claims

Indeed, the mileage claims made by automakers play a key role in a multibillion-dollar industry that deserves close government scrutiny. But what happens when the regulators fall down on the job?

The federal Environmental Protection Agency has failed consumers with its abysmal handling of a controversy involving the fuel efficiency of some recent Hyundai and Kia vehicles.

As detailed in The Kansas City Star on Sunday, the EPA won’t tell the public specifics about the problems involving auto mileage estimates from the two automakers.

The EPA also won’t comment when asked about how well the annual fuel economy standard tests are overseen by the government these days.

Finally, it’s extremely disappointing that environmental groups had to pressure the EPA for many months to even do its job and check into complaints about lower-than-expected mileage for certain vehicles.

The entire episode amounts to a shocking dereliction of duty by the EPA. It also, unfortunately, gives critics in Congress ammunition to attack the agency, which has important roles to play when it comes to cleaning up the nation’s air and water.

For decades, the America public has come to believe that the EPA essentially endorses whatever mileage statements are made by General Motors, Ford, Chrysler, Toyota, Honda and other carmakers.

But the controversy involving Hyundai and Kia tarnishes those two companies and the EPA. Plus, other major auto manufacturers such as GM are left to wonder whether the public will now distrust their estimates, too.

So were the recent errors honest mistakes? No one knows because the carmakers have not disclosed exactly what might have gone wrong.

Another problem: The EPA reportedly does not hire an outside expert to randomly check vehicles on the accuracy of their stated mileage claims using the same test that apparently brought to light the latest problems. Why did the agency stop such monitoring? Will it restart the program?

Cue up the once-again mum EPA officials who, as The Star noted, also refused to provide documents about the entire matter.

So much for being a public watchdog. In this case, the EPA seems more like an apologist for bad behavior by parts of the auto industry.

©2013 The Kansas City Star (Kansas City, Mo.)

Todu famaguonhu hu sosoyu’ na u yute’ añklan niha pot para u fan fitme gi maseha haf’ na mattiru u fan finagcha’e. I boten linala’ mu ti u lailai gi halom taduñg yan loka’ na lañgat mattiru. I añkla ni un’ yute sumustene todú finaposmu parehu ha’ gi halom katma ‘sino pagyu, napu yan linau.

‘Nai sige hu atetuye tumaitai i siñku ni mas manfamosu na leblo gi biblia, un’ mensahe kada ratu ha repite i Saina: I Dies na tinago’ña yan yine’ase’ yan inadahe gi mas man-na’ mase’ na prohimita siha. Yangin un’ aksepta finaiseña, pues mas libianu yan pas hinasomu gi halom maseha haf’ na mattiru.

Pa’gu na kuaresma, bai’ atetuye humasuye haf’ taimanu i nanata as Santa Maria ha soda’ fuetsaña sumuñgon i mattiru yan matrata siha gi lahiña esta ke maklaba gi kilu’us, mapunu’ yan mahafot dispues luma’la’ talu. Sumen makat este na finapos gi un’ silensiu yan sumen humidde na Nanan Pinasensia.

Hana hahassuyu’ este na patte gi pasuña ‘nai un’ biahe guaha tumobus un’ patgonhu gi eskuela. Ensegidas tumayogyu’ ginen i kare-tahu para bai’ punu’ ayu na patgon i chumoneg i hagahu.

Hombre este ti hu lañgag machogue gi patgonhu. Hassu fan haf’ mohon gaige gi hinassu yan korason Santa Maria ‘nai sige matula’e, matobus, matogcha’ yan dispues makurona tituka’ i lahiña, i Santa. Un’ attikulu ni mauleg in’ hahassu pa’gu na kuaresma.

■ ■ ■

Tradision Kilisyanu

Gi hinalom Españot kinientos años antes, guaha siha ha tulaika gi kutturán Chamorro pot para unna’ fanhalom mañgilisyanu. Guaha ha’ relihion natibu lau matulaika guatu gi Katolisismo.

I tinilaika sumasauna inestablesen justisia—areglun lai siha ni mauleg yan justisiau para todus—‘nai parehu direchun kada sudadanu.

Pot ihemplo: Gi antigú na Chamorro i mas tagpapa’ na rasa, era i Manachañg, ti manmasede mangai tanu’. Ha tulaika este i Españot

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

A massive flushing at CHC

If you’ve ever had an enema then you’ll understand what the effects of it feel like afterwards. The process is not the most exciting, to administer or discuss, but your colonic system stands to benefit if it is done correctly, and when prescribed by a doctor. And, well, you all know the rest, it gets the job done fast and furious and takes no prisoners.

A business form of enema needs to be quickly administered to the CHC management, and starting right at the top with big “Mr. B”. Juan Babauta has no business being in his current role overseeing a medical facility. He’s a career political player and has no right to be in a position where lives and the health and well-being of children, the sick, and the elderly, are being managed and decided.

For God’s sake CNMI, how can we accept such negligence and stupidity that the management of CHC has demonstrated, and allow the health and safety of the islands to be held hostage by such non-performing “takers.” None of them is a “healer” or has the heart of a caregiver, nor truly understands the medical profession. The Barbecue Budweiser Boys up on Capital Hill arranged their mate Juan Babauta to get this CHC job. Two of them specifically sat at a

Wish granted

It is one o’clock on Wednesday afternoon. The governor resigned three hours ago and Eloy Inos will be sworn in at the Multi-Purpose Center in 30 minutes. I won’t be attending, but will watch the KSPN-2 new at 6pm, and probably again at 8pm.

This has been a momentous day for the Commonwealth! By resigning, Mr. Fitial finally did something good for these islands.

Rumors are flying as to exactly why the governor chose to resign today, but, in the end, it doesn’t matter. The wishes of the people have been granted.

It is satisfying to cast one’s mind back to a day in August, when Lily Alden stood on Isa Drive with a little sign that said,

POZZOLAN

From Page 10

\$5-7/mt! Cinta and her group would not accept this either—but they never offered any “buyer” that would come close to anything she and her group wanted.

Well, need I say any more? It wasn’t allowed to work then and it won’t work now. There have been a total of at least five companies trying to obtain permits to mine Pagan pozzolan—all (except Sablan) were booted out or couldn’t even get in a word; most had the

ya hana’ fan gai tanu’ todus. Estague’ tutuhon ineyag justisiau na areglu siha i man-nuebu na areglo para u guaha pinarehu gi todus. Pot primet biahe parehu rayaña todú Chamorro guine siha na islas gi bandan dueño tanu’.

I tinilaikan relihion deste antigú guatu esta i Katolisismo sumuhon ineyag haf’ justisia segun i tinagu’ Yuus. Adumidde sige manhalom i mangelota siha ya siha mismu muna’ fitme i pegsi relihion kumu patte gi kuttura yan tradision natibu.

I finagpu Misan Dameño kulan ma-establese dinaña i tautau siha ginen i señgsoñg ‘nai mana’ guaha huegon bingo para i man-amku’ na famalao’an yan gayera para i lalahe. Ginen este siha na dinaña ‘nai mahuhuñgog haf’ masusesede gi otu soñgsoñg. Ha inklulusu haye dimalas, kumeke akamu’ ‘sino nuebu na finañagon neni.

I relihion kilisyanu i pisun sisteman demokrasiya na gobietnamentu. Gi hilu’ pisun kilisyanu ‘nai matuge’ i konstitusion iya America. Mañanau tat direchu kumu naturat, sibat yan direchon todus. Estague’ muna’ likidu America na nasion sa’ oppan ha sedi todus na umana’e animu fumachuchu’e haf’ mauleg para u adelanta linala’ kada familia yan todú gi hilu’ hineñgen kilisyanu.

Dispues de baraña na tinituhon gi ma-establesen iya Amerika gi 1776 ‘nai guaha mas sallon na inetnon gi entalu’ todus (nasionat siha) ni man-mattu America pot para umasuhaye diktatot na modun gobietnu gi orihinat na tanu’ niha.

Maseha manu guatu, taya’ mas paire ke i mauleg na sisteman gobietnamentu ni inestablesen i tautau siha. Monhayan este ta chogue gi 1978, primet sakan ‘nai tatuthon gumubietnan maisa hit. Esta guaha 35 años deste ayu na tiempu. Trabiha memegai ha’ siha asuntu debi ta atetuye umaregla pot para tana’ metgot mas institusion pisun demokrasiya gi halom gobietnamenton iya Marianas.

Guaha siha na asuntu mampos te’ug na debi u guaha pinasensia yan inestudiu pot para ta konduse manfitme siha na areglu. Este na asuntu siha siempre bai’ papañgon bes enkuandu pagu na sakan.

Chris West

Santa Monica, Calif.

“Impeach.” Her bravery may have inspired others such as Glen Hunter, Joe Deleon Guerrero, Tina Sablan, Brian Kendall, and scores of others who stood across from Microl Toyota at “honk rallies.” They were exciting and uplifting events, and they helped to shape history.

The problems of the CNMI will remain with us. But we will go about our business with lighter hearts, and a more optimistic feeling about our future.

Russ Mason

Donni Springs

same reports we did; none (except Azmar) had the commitments in hand nor the money. I won’t even touch upon the disastrous environmental concerns perpetrated by J.G. Sablan; they are well documented but seldom discussed.

Finally, to current legislators and blindly grasping CRA members, *forget* pozzolan; its time has gone. The CNMI had an opportunity but blew it with greedy, self-serving political and personal interests. For some to now lead retirees (and possibly the court) to believe the pozzolan project is still viable and will somehow “save” the Fund is a cruel joke and offers false hope to uninformed retirees and possibly the court.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°	▲ 86° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 85 ▼ 76
Palau	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Yap	Partly Cloudy	▲ 87 ▼ 78
Chuuk	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 79
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Kosrae	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 80
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	▲ 86 ▼ 80

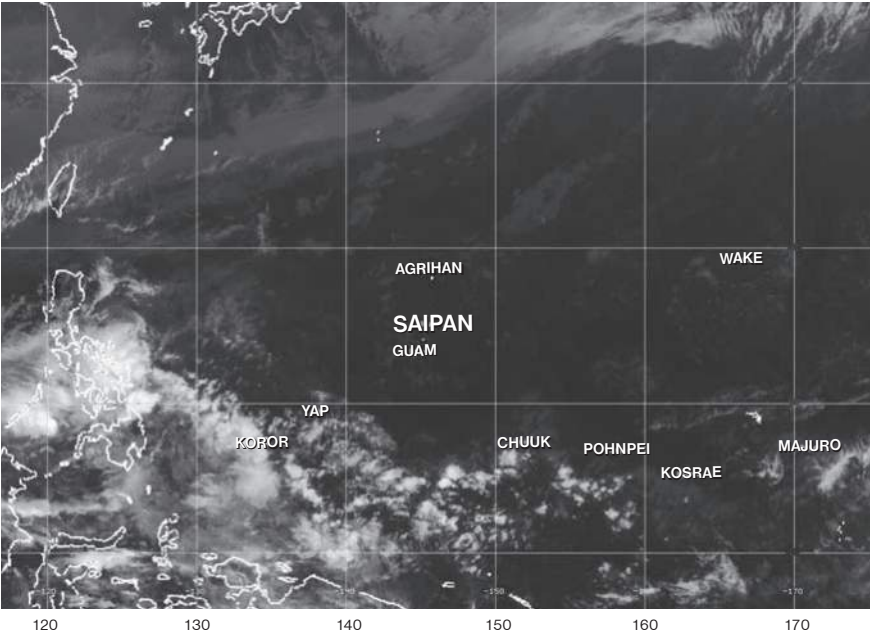
Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲ 78 ▼ 66
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 43 ▼ 24
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 72 ▼ 62
Honolulu	Showers	▲ 80 ▼ 70
London	Cloudy	▲ 38 ▼ 32
Los Angeles	Partly Cloudy	▲ 61 ▼ 41
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 89 ▼ 64
Miami	Sunny	▲ 81 ▼ 71
New York	Mostly Sunny	▲ 35 ▼ 26
Osaka	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 48 ▼ 37
Paris	Cloudy	▲ 34 ▼ 26
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 49 ▼ 28
Rome	Rain	▲ 54 ▼ 46
Salem	Showers	▲ 49 ▼ 41
San Francisco	Mostly Sunny	▲ 59 ▼ 43
Seoul	Sunny	▲ 41 ▼ 22
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲ 47 ▼ 30
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲ 43 ▼ 32

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
5:56 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.5 Feet
10:52 AM	Today	Low Tide:	1.2 Feet
3:52 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.7 Feet
11:27 PM	Today	Low Tide:	0.1 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 20 , 2013
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough running from 5N133E to EQ144E and convergent trade-winds east and north of the trough are producing scattered to numerous showers and isolated thunderstorms over Koror within 100 miles of a line from 10N130E to EQ 142E. Convergent trade-winds are producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms southeast of Yap within 170 miles of a line from 7N139E to EQ147E. A surface trough east of Chuuk running from 9N153E to 3N154E is producing scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms over Chuuk within 170 miles of the trough axis. Trade-wind convergence is generating scattered showers south of Pohnpei and Kosrae between 2N and 6N from 157E to 164E and south of Majuro between 4N and 7N from 170E to 180.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:39 AM	6:23 PM
Friday	6:38 AM	6:23 PM
Saturday	6:38 AM	6:23 PM
Sunday	6:37 AM	6:23 PM
Monday	6:37 AM	6:24 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	2:28 PM	2:49 AM
Friday	3:18 PM	3:35 AM
Saturday	4:09 PM	4:20 AM
Sunday	5:01 PM	5:03 AM
Monday	5:52 PM	5:45 AM

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- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- For pictures:**
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 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF FEB. 5, 2013

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) UA5070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5062 4:40am 5:30am 1, 3, 5 UA5068 8:25am 9:15am Daily UA5074 11:10am 12:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5076 3:10pm 4:00pm Daily UA5078 6:55pm 7:45pm Daily UA5072 9:45pm 10:35pm Daily	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN UA 5069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 4, 6, 7 UA5071 7:05am 7:55am Daily UA5073 9:50am 10:40am 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7 UA5075 1:45pm 2:35pm 1, 4, 5, 7 UA5077 5:35pm 6:25pm Daily UA5079 8:20pm 9:10pm Daily
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:40am Daily DL285 6:35am 9:15am 1, 5, 7 DL297 4:25pm 7:20pm Daily	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN UA5062 3:35am 4:10am 1, 3, 5 UA5038 10:55am 11:30am 6
SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX) OZ119 4:00am 6:40am Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL286 7:40pm 12:15am+1 4, 6, 7 DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:10am 6:20am 4, 6, 7 OZ608 3:30am 6:40am 3	OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN OZ120 9:50pm 2:20am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ119 4:00am 11:20am Daily via KIX OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 1:50am+1 3, 5, 6 OZ607 9:35pm 2:25am+1 2
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:00am 8:35am 1, 4, 5, 7	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ120 7:10pm 2:20am+1 Daily via KIX OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK) MU7108 3:50am 7:40am 1, 5	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:30pm 4:30am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN MU7107 7:40pm 2:50am+1 4, 7
SAIPAN-VLADIVOSTOK (VVO) XF1734 11:55am 5:10pm 5	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 UA5070/191 4:35am 10:00am 6 via GUM UA5070/191 4:40am 10:00am 3 DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT UA5076/183 3:10pm 9:30pm 2, 5 via GUM UA5076/183 3:10pm 9:50pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN UA5072/PR111 9:45pm 7:45am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM	VLADIVOSTOK (VVO)-SAIPAN XF1733 8:00pm 12:05am+1 4
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 11:50am 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 11:50am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN UA5076/147 3:10pm 10:30pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily via ICN DL172/288 8:05am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT UA190/5077 10:55am 6:25pm 3, 6 via GUM UA190/5079 10:55am 9:10pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/UA5072 10:15pm 7:55am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 10:55pm 7:55am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM UA184/5071 11:59pm 7:55am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-TINIAN FRE 101 6:45 6:55 Daily FRE 103 7:30 7:40 Daily FRE 105 8:00 8:10 Daily FRE 107 8:40 8:50 Daily FRE 109 9:10 9:20 Daily FRE 111 10:45 10:55 Daily	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ746/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN UA180/5071 11:25pm 10:40am+1 1 via GUM UA180/5077 11:25pm 6:25pm+1 5 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U: Sichuan Airlines; MU: China Eastern; UA: United Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; VLK: Vladivostok Air.

ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

US ready to strike back against China cyberattacks

WASHINGTON (AP)—As public evidence mounts that the Chinese military is responsible for stealing massive amounts of U.S. government data and corporate trade secrets, the Obama administration is poised to spell out specific trade actions it may take against Beijing or any other country guilty of cyberespionage.

According to officials familiar with the plans, the White House is eyeing fines, penalties and other trade restrictions as initial, more-aggressive steps the U.S. would take in response to what top officials say has been an unrelenting campaign of cyberstealing linked to the Chinese government. The new strategy is to be released Wednesday, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak publicly about the threatened action.

The White House plans come after a Virginia-based cybersecurity firm released a torrent of details Monday that tied a secret Chinese military unit in Shanghai to years of cyberattacks against U.S. companies. After analyzing breaches that compromised more than 140 companies, Mandiant has concluded that they can be linked People's Liberation Army's Unit 61398.

Military experts believe the unit is part of the People's Liberation Army's cyber-command, which is under the direct authority of the General Staff Department, China's version of the Joint Chiefs of Staff. As such, its activities would be likely to be authorized at the highest levels of China's military.

The release of Mandiant's report, complete with details on three of the alleged hackers and photographs of one of the military unit's buildings in Shanghai, makes public what U.S. authorities have said less publicly for years. But it also increases

the pressure on the U.S. to take more forceful action against the Chinese for what experts say has been years of systematic espionage.

"If the Chinese government flew planes into our airspace, our planes would escort them away. If it happened two, three or four times, the president would be on the phone and there would be threats of retaliation," said former FBI executive assistant director Shawn Henry. "This is happening thousands of times a day. There needs to be some definition of where the red line is and what the repercussions would be."

Henry, now president of the security firm CrowdStrike, said that rather than tell companies to increase their cybersecurity the government needs to focus more on how to deter the hackers and the nations that are backing them.

James Lewis, a cybersecurity expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies, said that in the past year the White House has been taking a serious look at responding to China, adding that "this will be the year they will put more pressure on, even while realizing it will be hard for the Chinese to change. There's not an on-off switch."

The Chinese government, meanwhile, has denied involvement in the cyber-attacks tracked by Mandiant. Instead, the Foreign Ministry said that China, too, is a victim of hacking, some of it traced to the U.S. Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei cited a report by an agency under the Ministry of Information Technology and Industry that said in 2012 alone that foreign hackers used viruses and other malicious software to seize control of 1,400 computers in China and 38,000 websites.

"Among the above attacks, those from the U.S. numbered the most," Hong said at a daily

media briefing, lodging the most specific allegations the Chinese government has made about foreign hacking.

Cybersecurity experts say U.S. authorities do not conduct similar attacks or steal data from Chinese companies, but acknowledge that intelligence agencies routinely spy on other countries.

China is clearly a target of

interest, said Lewis, noting that the U.S. would be interested in Beijing's military policies, such as any plans for action against Taiwan or Japan.

In its report, Mandiant said it traced the hacking back to a neighborhood in the outskirts of Shanghai that includes a white 12-story office building run by the PLA's Unit 61398.

Mandiant said there are only

two viable conclusions about the involvement of the Chinese military in the cyberattacks: Either Unit 61398 is responsible for the persistent attacks or they are being done by a secret organization of Chinese speakers with direct access to the Shanghai telecommunications infrastructure who are engaged in a multi-year espionage campaign being run right outside the mili-

tary unit's gates.

"In a state that rigorously monitors Internet use, it is highly unlikely that the Chinese government is unaware of an attack group that operates from the Pudong New Area of Shanghai," the Mandiant report said, concluding that the only way the group could function is with the "full knowledge and cooperation" of the Beijing government.



Tracking China's cyber espionage

A study by U.S. computer securities firm Mandiant has identified 141 organizations that have been hacked by a Chinese group since at least 2006; Mandiant says the group most likely has links to China's army.

Where attacks occurred

With number of organizations compromised

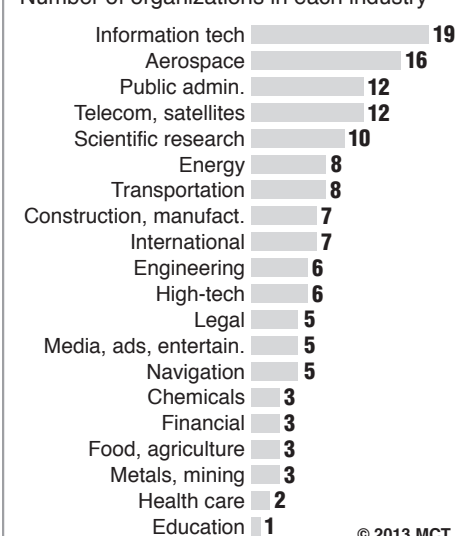
NOTE: For multinational organizations, the branch hacked, if known, or the headquarters is counted



Source: Mandiant
Graphic: Pat Carr

Types of organizations hacked

Number of organizations in each industry



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Hackers take Jeep's Twitter account for a ride

DETROIT (AP)—Someone hacked their way into Jeep's Twitter account on Tuesday, posting fake tweets about the brand being sold to General Motors' Cadillac because employees had been caught "doing this." Accompanying the tweet was a photo of a man holding a bottle of pills. Later, the hackers tweeted that Jeep production had been halted.

The move was similar to an incident involving the Burger King restaurant chain on Monday. A spokesman for Chrysler Group LLC, which owns Jeep, said he had no idea if the two cases were linked, although he said the visuals looked similar.

Messages left with Twitter spokeswomen were not immediately returned.

Hackers took control of the account around 1:30 p.m. EST, posting that the Jeep brand had been sold to General Motors' Cadillac because employees had been caught "doing this." Accompanying the tweet was a photo of a man holding a bottle of pills. Later, the hackers tweeted that Jeep production had been halted.

The false tweets took place for a little under an hour before Chrysler's social media agency was able to regain control of the account with help from Twitter, Chrysler spokesman Ed Garsten said.

The false messages were deleted from the account around 3 p.m.

The agency, Ignite Social Media of Birmingham, Mich., near Detroit, spotted the misdeeds quickly and worked to wrest the account back from the hackers, Garsten said. He said he has no idea who hacked into the account, and he thought Chrysler would take steps to guard against future attacks.

"I can only imagine that they're taking a look at it," he said.

Jeep normally uses Twitter to

promote its vehicles and parts, or to spotlight its customers.

Garsten said he didn't think the incident hurt the Jeep brand because most people realized it was a hacking incident. The hackers were successful in making Jeep's tweets more popular.

"I guess I see that Jeep was trending during that time," he said.

Burger King's Twitter account went through a similar takeover on Monday, as hackers posted obscene messages and changed its profile picture to a McDonald's logo.

Pelkey joins Bank of Guam



HAGATNA, Guam—The board of directors, management and staff of Bank of

Guam are pleased to announce the appointment of Maree Pelkey to BG Wealth Management and Trust Services as assistant vice president/investment officer.

Pelkey was previously with Morgan Stanley Smith Barney starting as a registered client service associate in 2006 and became a technical analyst in 2008 until she joined Guam Economic Development Authority in Au-



Pelkey

gust 2011.

An alumna of the Academy of Our Lady of Guam, Pelkey earned a Bachelor of Business Administration from the University of Guam in December 2006 graduating cum laude. She earned a Professional Master of Business Administration from UOG in May 2012. She is certified as an Accredited Investment Fiduciary and has earned FINRA Series 7 General Securities Representative and FINRA Series 66 Securities Investment Advisor credentials.

Pelkey may be reached at maree.pelkey@bankofguam.com or (671) 472-5205. **(BOG)**

Not much urgency to avoid automatic spending cuts

WASHINGTON (AP)—Ten days before a new deadline for broad, automatic government spending cuts, the sense of urgency that surrounded other recent fiscal crises is absent. Government agencies are preparing to absorb an \$85 billion hit to their budgets, and politicians, at least for now, seem willing to accept the consequences.

President Barack Obama, back from a Florida golfing weekend, warned Tuesday that "people will lose their jobs" if Congress doesn't act. But lawmakers weren't in session to hear his appeal, and they aren't coming back to work until next week.

Still dividing the two sides are sharp differences over whether

tax increases, which Obama wants and Republicans oppose, should be part of a budget deal.

Obama cautioned that if the immediate spending cuts—known as sequestration—occur, the full range of government will feel the effects. Among those he listed: furloughed FBI agents, reductions in spending for communities to pay police, firefighters and teachers, and decreased ability to respond to threats around the world.

"So far at least, the ideas that the Republicans have proposed ask nothing of the wealthiest Americans or the biggest corporations," Obama said at a White House event against a backdrop of firefighters and other emer-

gency personnel. "So the burden is all on the first responders, or seniors or middle class families."

Aides say Obama is ready to take his case more directly to the public in an effort to pressure Republicans, either by traveling to vulnerable states or, as the White House often does, through local media interviews. They say neither Obama nor White House officials are now engaged in direct negotiations with Republican leaders.

The spending cuts, however, aren't perceived to be as calamitous as the threatened results of recent fights over the nation's borrowing authority and the "fiscal cliff" that would have cut

spending and increased tax rates on all Americans paying income taxes. Failure to raise the debt ceiling would have left the government with no money to spend on myriad programs and could have precipitated an unprecedented default. The fiscal cliff had the potential of setting back the economic recovery.

In fact, many Republicans now see the automatic cuts in spending as the only way to tackle the federal deficit. Some liberals won't balk either because they want cuts in Pentagon spending. And many Democrats believe the cuts will have to materialize before Republicans agree to some increase in taxes.

Nation

Families look for relief from US immigration bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—If America is a nation of immigrants, it's also a nation of immigrants' husbands, wives, parents and children—and their brothers, sisters, nieces and nephews too.

That could begin to change under legislation being written in the Senate, where the nation's longstanding emphasis on family-based immigration is coming under scrutiny.

Unlike most other industrialized nations, the U.S. awards a much larger proportion of permanent residency status to family members of U.S. citizens and permanent residents than to foreigners with job prospects here. About two-thirds of permanent legal immigration to the U.S. is family-based, compared with about 15 percent that is employment-based, according to the Migration Policy Institute. The remainder is largely humanitarian.

It's a lopsided ratio that may change under a bill being crafted by a Senate bipartisan negotiating group that is aiming to release legislation next month.

Several senators involved in the talks said employment-based immigration must increase to help American competitiveness and the U.S. economy. High-tech companies have been pleading for more workers, and some Republicans, in particular, believe the educational



Maricris Arce poses for a picture at her home in Anaheim, Calif., Friday, Feb. 15, 2013. Arce, a native of the Philippines, said she was separated from her husband for five years after coming legally to the U.S., and he wasn't present for the birth of their first child.

backgrounds and employment potential of prospective immigrants should be a bigger part of the calculus in awarding green cards, the permanent resident visas that are the key step toward citizenship.

"In the 21st century, more of our immigration needs to be based on merit and skill," said Republican Sen. Marco Rubio of Florida, a member of the "Gang of Eight" senators negotiating an immigration bill.

The senators' proposals are

still evolving and details remain unclear. For advocates of family-based immigration, the key question has become whether the increased focus on employment-based immigration will come in addition to the family-based system—or to its detriment.

"Family unity has been the cornerstone of our immigration system for decades and should remain so," said Kevin Appleby, director of migration policy at the U.S. Conference of Catholic

Bishops. "We're concerned that the family-based system is vulnerable and that visas could be taken away or categories could be eliminated, and we would strongly oppose that."

Under current law, U.S. citizens can petition to bring their spouses, parents and minor unmarried children into the country without any limit on the number coming in. There are caps on all other categories, including petitions for citizens' adult or married children, citi-

zens' brothers and sisters and their children and the immediate family members of legal permanent residents. The law also caps the percentage of immigrants that can come from any one country in a year.

These limitations have led to a backlog of more than 4 million family members of U.S. citizens and permanent residents who must wait in their home countries for years before coming to the U.S. Filipinos in the sibling category can face waits of more than 20 years before they can join family here, advocates said.

Maricris Arce, 43, a native of the Philippines who now lives in Anaheim, California, said she was separated from her husband for five years after coming legally to the U.S., and he wasn't present for the birth of their first child.

"I think they need to change that law," Arce said. "Let them come faster and easier so the family will be united."

President Barack Obama and the Senate negotiators have committed to reducing the existing backlog of people waiting for family visas, and this would probably happen by adding visas to speed the process. The bill would also probably raise the country cap that limits any one country to 7 percent of total immigrants per year, probably to 15 percent.

White House tries to keep immigration on track

WASHINGTON (AP)—The White House on Tuesday sought to keep delicate immigration negotiations on track, as a key Republican senator distanced himself further from a draft bill President Barack Obama's aides are readying in case congressional talks crumble.

Florida Republican Sen. Marco Rubio's office said Obama's plan "injected additional partisanship into an already difficult process." The White House, following the weekend leak of its draft legislation, insisted the president wants the bipartisan Senate group Rubio is a member of to put forward its own bill instead.

Obama spoke with Rubio on Tuesday to reiterate his commitment to the Senate process and to make clear that he had his own legislation ready, the White House said. The president also called Republicans Sens. Lindsey Graham of South Carolina and John McCain of Arizona, two other GOP lawmakers involved in the immigration negotiations.

"It is, by far, the president's preference that the Senate process move forward, that the bipartisan group of eight have success, and that they produce a bill that wins the support of Democrats and Republicans in Senate," White House spokesman Jay Carney said.

Senate aides said privately Tuesday that bipartisan negotiations are in a good place and they did not feel as though the disclosure of details in Obama's draft bill would disrupt their process. In fact, Obama's backup bill could end up spurring GOP lawmakers to rally behind a congressional plan with many similarities rather than support legislation attached to the president.

While they differ on some key details, both sides are contemplating legislation that would provide a pathway to citizenship for most of the 11 million illegal immigrants already in the U.S., tighten border security, crack down on businesses that employ illegal workers and strengthen the legal immigration system.

Rubio, a rising Republican star and favorite of his party's conservative wing, has particular incentive to publicly disavow Obama's proposals.

Shooting spree across Calif. county leaves 4 dead

TUSTIN, Calif. (AP)—The violence stretched across 25 miles in Orange County and was as brutal as it was fast-moving.

In less than an hour, a 20-year-old student wielding a shotgun killed a woman in his home and two commuters during carjackings early Tuesday, shot up vehicles on a Southern California freeway and committed suicide as police closed in on him, authorities said.

One driver was forced from his BMW at a stop sign, marched to a curb and killed as witnesses watched in horror.

"He was basically executed," Santa Ana police Cpl. Anthony

Bertagna said. "There were at least six witnesses."

The shooter, Ali Syed, was an unemployed, part-time student who lived with his parents at the Ladera Ranch residence where the first victim was slain, Tustin police Chief Scott Jordan said. Authorities said Syed was taking one course at Saddleback College, a two-year community college.

Orange County sheriff's spokesman Jim Amormino said the woman killed at the home was in her 20s. She was not identified and was not related to the shooter, he said, adding that it wasn't known what she was doing at the home.

Syed's parents were in the house at the time, fled the residence when shots were fired, and reported it, he said.

Jordan said Syed stated to one carjacking victim: "I don't want to hurt you. I killed somebody. Today is my last day."

Jordan said there was no indication of a motive, but he sought to assure residents that the violence was over.

"There is no conspiracy here, there are no outstanding suspects, it was a very, very unfortunate situation, but I don't think the people here in Orange County have to be worried about their safety," he said.

The violence began at 4:45 a.m., when deputies responded to a call from Ladera Ranch, a sleepy inland town about 55 miles southeast of Los Angeles. They found the woman shot multiple times.

Jason Glass, who lives across the street, said he couldn't sleep and was watching TV in his garage with the door partly open when he heard what sounded like gun shots.

Then he heard a commotion and the sound of a car speeding away.

Hours later, his neighborhood was flooded with police, and crime scene tape sectioned

off the street.

Glass said a man and three young children had been escorted from the home where the shooting occurred.

"I just happened to be in here when this happened," Glass said about his garage. "To think he could have rolled under my door or needed a car or needed to hide is crazy. It's freaking me out."

From Ladera Ranch, police said the gunman headed north and within 30 minutes carjacked a Dodge pickup truck in Tustin, about 20 miles away. The driver was uninjured, but a bystander was hit by gunfire and taken to a hospital.

Drug overdose deaths up for 11th consecutive year

CHICAGO (AP)—Drug overdose deaths rose for the 11th straight year, federal data show, and most of them were accidents involving addictive painkillers despite growing attention to risks from these medicines.

"The big picture is that this is a big problem that has gotten much worse quickly," said Dr. Thomas Frieden, head of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, which gathered and analyzed the data.

In 2010, the CDC reported, there were 38,329 drug overdose

deaths nationwide. Medicines, mostly prescription drugs, were involved in nearly 60 percent of overdose deaths that year, overshadowing deaths from illicit narcotics.

The report appears in Tuesday's Journal of the American Medical Association.

It details which drugs were at play in most of the fatalities. As in previous recent years, opioid drugs—which include OxyContin and Vicodin—were the biggest problem, contributing to 3 out of 4 medication overdose deaths.

Frieden said many doctors and patients don't realize how addictive these drugs can be, and that they're too often prescribed for pain that can be managed with less risky drugs.

They're useful for cancer, "but if you've got terrible back pain or terrible migraines," using these addictive drugs can be dangerous, he said.

Medication-related deaths accounted for 22,134 of the drug overdose deaths in 2010.

Anti-anxiety drugs including Valium were among common

causes of medication-related deaths, involved in almost 30 percent of them. Among the medication-related deaths, 17 percent were suicides.

The report's data came from death certificates, which aren't always clear on whether a death was a suicide or a tragic attempt at getting high. But it does seem like most serious painkiller overdoses were accidental, said Dr. Rich Zane, chair of emergency medicine at the University of Colorado School of Medicine.

The study's findings are no

surprise, he added. "The results are consistent with what we experience" in ERs, he said, adding that the statistics no doubt have gotten worse since 2010.

Some experts believe these deaths will level off. "Right now, there's a general belief that because these are pharmaceutical drugs, they're safer than street drugs like heroin," said Don Des Jarlais, director of the chemical dependency institute at New York City's Beth Israel Medical Center.

"But at some point, people using these drugs are going to become more aware of the dangers," he said.

Asia

British Spitfire hunter to continue Myanmar quest

YANGON, Myanmar (AP)—A British aviation enthusiast searching for scores of World War II-era Spitfire fighter planes he believes are buried in Myanmar said Tuesday he will continue his quest even though his main sponsor has backed out.

David Cundall told reporters that he is confident of enough funding to continue his search despite the withdrawal of the Belarusian video gaming company Wargaming.net. The company said last Friday it believes the planes don't really exist and descriptions of their burial by Allied forces as the war drew to a close nearly 70 years ago are a myth.

Cundall contends that as many as 140 Spitfires may have been buried in near-pristine condition in Myanmar. No traces of any were found in digging that began in December, but Cundall said he hopes to have good news in two weeks when the searchers finish surveying.

He said they are waiting for a specialized company from Europe to use ground-penetrating radar that will show the shape and depth of buried objects.

Cundall said Wargaming "couldn't wait that long." "I'm still confident to find Spitfires," he said. "I believe in eyewitnesses."

The Spitfire helped Britain beat back waves of German bombers during the war that ended in 1945 and remains the most famous British combat aircraft. About 20,000 Spitfires



British aviation enthusiast David J. Cundall, center, talks to journalists during a press conference at Park Royal hotel in Yangon, Myanmar Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2013.

were built, although the dawn of the jet age quickly made the propeller-driven, single-seat planes obsolete.

Wargaming said in a statement that its team "now believes, based on clear documentary evidence, as well as the evidence from the fieldwork, that no Spitfires were delivered in crates and buried" in Myanmar between 1945 and 1946.

It said archival records indicated that the British unit handling shipments at the time

received only 37 aircraft, but "none of the crates contained Spitfires and most appear to have been re-exported."

Moreover, "appalling weather" and shortages of heavy equipment and manpower would have made it "almost impossible" to bury the massive crates, the company said.

Cundall accused Wargaming of getting involved in the search "for publicity."

"They are not Spitfire enthusiasts at all. ... After a few days,

Wargaming said they wanted to go and leave. I'm here to find Spitfires and we have ample funding without Wargaming," Cundall said. "There is no shortage of money."

Cundall said funding for the search came from his own resources as well as other financiers. When he first announced the excavation plans last year, he said his quest to find the planes involved 12 trips to Myanmar and an expenditure of more than 130,000 pounds (\$210,000).

The search kindled some excitement in early January when an excavation team in northern Myanmar said it found a wooden crate with unknown contents full of muddy water. It was eventually found to contain wood paneling and fence posts.

"We never said it was a Spitfire, we just said it was an object of interest," declared Cundall. "This is the nature of the business. We are looking for something like a needle in the haystack."

UN: Drones killed more Afghan civilians in 2012

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The number of U.S. drone strikes in Afghanistan rose sharply last year compared with 2011, the United Nations said Tuesday. The increase was a sign that unmanned aircraft are taking a greater role as Americans try to streamline the fight against insurgents while preparing to withdraw combat forces in less than two years.

Drones have become a major source of contention between the U.S. and countries like Pakistan, where covert strikes on militant leaders have drawn condemnation and allegations of sovereignty infringements as family members and other bystanders are killed.

They have not been a prominent issue in Afghanistan, however. While drone attacks have occurred, they have largely been in support of ground troops during operations and have not been singled out by President Hamid Karzai's administration in its campaign against international airstrikes.

The steep rise in the number of weapons fired from unmanned aerial aircraft—the formal term for drones—raises the possibility that may change as U.S. forces become more de-

pendent on such attacks to fight al-Qaida and other insurgents as combat missions are due to end by the end of 2014.

The U.N. mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) said 506 weapons were released by drones in 2012, compared with 294 the previous year. Five incidents resulted in casualties with 16 civilians killed and three wounded, up from just one incident in 2011.

Georgette Gagnon, the head of human rights for UNAMA, said it was the first year the U.N. had tried to document civilian casualties from drones.

The U.S. Air Force Central Command also recorded an increase, giving the numbers of weapons released by drones as 243 in 2009, 277 in 2010, 294 in 2011 and 494 in 2012.

Drones are highly effective and most nations have given Washington at least tacit agreement to carry out the attacks.

Peter Singer of the Washington-based Brookings Institution noted that the drone program in Afghanistan is run by the Pentagon, and therefore is more transparent than the CIA drone counterterrorism program in Pakistan.

Singer, who has written extensively about drones, said

the number of operations in Afghanistan is increasing, but most are performed in support of troops on the ground.

"This is just another sign of how drones are becoming the new normal," he said.

The U.N. figures were released as part of its annual report on civilian casualties in Afghanistan. Overall, the full-year toll of civilian deaths in 2012 declined to 2,754, a 12 percent decrease from 3,131 in the same period a year earlier. It was the first time in six years that the civilian death toll dropped.

But the toll spiked in the second half of the year as weather improved, compared with the same period in 2011, suggesting that Afghanistan is likely to face continued violence as the Taliban and other militants fight for control following the impending withdrawal of U.S. and allied combat forces.

The population also faced a sharp increase in assassinations and other insurgent attacks targeting government supporters.

Conflict-related violence struck more women and girls last year as well, with 301 killed and 563 wounded—a 20 percent increase from 2011, the report said.

China rejects PH UN mediation effort

BEIJING (AP)—China said Tuesday it has rejected the Philippines' attempt to seek international arbitration over conflicting claims to territory in the South China Sea.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Hong Lei said that China's ambassador to Manila, Ma Keqing, had returned Manila's formal notification of the move to a Philippine Department of Foreign Affairs official. Hong said the proposal was historically and legally incorrect and contained unacceptable accusations against China.

The Philippines informed China last month of its plans to take the countries' conflicting claims to a tribunal operating under the 1982 United Nations Convention on the Law of the Sea. It wants the panel to declare Beijing's moves in the potentially oil-rich waters unlawful.

The Philippines' foreign affairs department said in a statement Tuesday that China's rejection will not interfere with the arbitration process that the Philippines has started.

"The Philippines remains committed to arbitration, which is a friendly, peaceful and durable form of dispute settlement that should be welcomed by

all," the statement said.

Even if a tribunal ruled against China, Beijing could choose to ignore the ruling.

Six governments have overlapping claims in the South China Sea. China claims sovereignty over virtually all of it.

Chinese paramilitary ships confronted Philippine vessels last year in a monthslong standoff over a disputed shoal. China has effectively controlled the shoal since June, when Manila withdrew its ships as a typhoon approached.

There are fears that territorial conflicts in the region, including a dispute between Japan and China in the East China Sea, could spark Asia's next armed conflict.

The United States, which says it has a national interest in the peaceful resolution of disputes in the South China Sea, made clear Tuesday it supports the Philippine attempt to seek international arbitration.

State Department spokeswoman Victoria Nuland said the U.S. will continue to encourage the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and China to make progress on a code of conduct.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Clergy want int'l probe on Sri Lanka civil war

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Christian clergy from Sri Lanka's ethnic Tamil-majority north have asked the U.N. Human Rights Council to push for an independent international inquiry into alleged atrocities in Sri Lanka's civil war. A letter dated Monday and signed by 133 Roman Catholic, Anglican and Methodist pastors and nuns said the government lacks the will to resolve causes of the conflict on its own. Both the government and the now-defeated Tamil Tiger rebels have been accused of serious human rights violations during the quarter-century-long war, especially its final stages. According to a U.N. report, tens of thousands of civilians were killed in just the five months before fighting ended in 2009.

NKorean propaganda video shows Obama in flames

PYONGYANG, North Korea (AP)—A new North Korean video portrays President Barack Obama and American troops in flames and says the North conducted its recent nuclear test because of U.S. hostility. The video follows a string of critical rhetoric against the United States. Another video posted earlier this month showed an American city being attacked by missiles. The most recent video, posted Sunday by a YouTube account affiliated with a pro-reunification government agency, shows a blazing fire superimposed over footage of Obama, and ends with a generic simulation of a nuclear device exploding underground.

Maldives opposition threatens to boycott election

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)—Maldives' main opposition party will boycott a presidential election scheduled in September unless it is held under a transitional government, a party spokesman said Tuesday. Ahmed Naseem, a former foreign minister and a spokesman for the Maldivian Democratic Party, said the party doesn't trust President Mohammed Waheed Hassan to hold a fair election. He said the party wants a transitional government led by the speaker of Parliament for two months as allowed under the constitution of the Indian Ocean nation.

World

\$50 million in diamonds stolen at Brussels airport

BRUSSELS (AP)—When the armored car set off for the Brussels airport carrying \$50 million worth of precious stones from Antwerp's diamond district, eight gunmen knew all about it.

One of the biggest diamond heists in recent memory was about to go down.

The thieves surely knew it would be too risky to make their move in Antwerp, which is the world capital of diamond-cutting, 43 kilometers (27 miles) from the airport. The city's diamond industry has some 2,000 surveillance cameras, police monitoring and countless identity controls to protect its \$200 million in daily trade of rough and polished gems.

"We are just about the safest place in Belgium," said Antwerp World Diamond Center spokeswoman Caroline De Wolf.

And the thieves no doubt realized that once Swiss Flight LX789 was airborne Monday night on its way to Zurich, the diamonds tucked in its hold, it would be too late to get their hands on the gems.

But the airport's 25-kilometer fence and the transfer of the diamonds from the armored car on the tarmac to the hold of the Fokker 100 twin-engine jet—now that held potential.

After weeks of lashing rain, snow, sleet and black ice, Monday evening was finally as good as it gets in late winter in Belgium. Crisp, cold air meant dry roads for a perfect getaway, and winter's early darkness was a blessing for those needing stealth.



An armored truck of Brinks Diamond & Jewelry Services arrives at the cargo section of Brussels international airport, Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2013. AP

About 20 minutes before the flight's scheduled 8:05 p.m. departure, the robbers hid in a construction site outside the airport fence. Then they apparently cut through the fence and, in two black cars with blue police lights flashing, drove onto the tarmac, speeding straight to pier A, where the armored car had just finished transferring the diamonds to the Fokker.

Dressed in dark police clothing and hoods, the thieves whipped out machine guns and stopped the pilots and the transport security crew in their tracks.

The 29 passengers? "They saw nothing," Anja Bijmens of the Brussels prosecutor's office said Tuesday. The thieves "never fired a shot. They never injured anyone."

With speed and precision, the thieves opened the plane's hold,

picked out 120 parcels and loaded them into the cars.

"Afterward, they made a high-speed getaway," Bijmens said, estimating the whole op-

eration took five minutes.

By late Tuesday, investigators had found the charred remains of a van most likely used in the heist but little else.

Missile strike in northern Syria kills 33

BEIRUT (AP)—A Syrian missile strike leveled a block of buildings in an impoverished district of Aleppo on Tuesday, killing at least 33 people, almost half of them children, anti-regime activists said.

Many were trapped under the rubble of destroyed houses and piles of concrete and the death toll could still rise further if more bodies are uncovered.

The apparent ground-to-ground missile attack struck a quiet area that has been held by anti-regime fighters for many months, a reminder of how difficult it is for the opposition to defend territory in the face of the regime's far superior weaponry.

In the capital Damascus, state-run news agency SANA said two mortars exploded near

one of President Bashar Assad's palaces. It dealt a symbolic blow to the embattled leader, who has tried to maintain an image as the head of a functioning state even as rebels edge closer to the heart of his seat of power.

No casualties were reported and it was unclear whether Assad was in the palace. He has two others in the city.

The attack was the first confirmed strike close to a presidential palace and another sign that the civil war is seeping into areas of the capital once considered safe.

"This is a clear message to the regime that nowhere is safe from now on," said Khaled al-Shami, an activist in Damascus reached via Skype. "The fact that they had to announce it means they

Because of the heist's clockwork precision, there was immediate speculation the thieves had help from the inside. But Bijmens said only that the investigation is still going on.

Embarrassed airport officials were left to explain how thieves could so smoothly get in, stage a robbery and make a clean getaway. Diamond industry officials who pride themselves on the security of their trade were equally mortified.

Airport spokesman Jan Van Der Cruysse could not explain how the area could be so vulnerable. "We abide by the most stringent rules," he said, noting the same apply to other European airports.

Philip Baum, an aviation security consultant in Britain, called the robbery unsettling—not just because the fence was breached, but because the response did not appear to have been immediate. That, he said, raised questions of whether alarms were ringing in the right places.

"It does seem very worrying that someone can actually have the time to drive two vehicles onto the airport, effect the robbery and drive out without being intercepted," Baum said, raising the specter of terrorists exploiting such lapses as well.

Sunni protesters dig in as tensions flare in Iraq

RAMADI, Iraq (AP)—Sunni protesters are camped out in dozens of tents festooned with tribal banners on the edge of this one-time Iraqi insurgent stronghold. They are digging in and growing more organized, vowing to keep up their demonstrations against a Shiite-led government they feel has left them behind.

The protesters will seek to bring down the government if their demands aren't met, warns a prominent Sunni sheik who once helped Americans battle al-Qaida in Iraq. He speaks ominously that armed militants who once fought U.S. troops could rally to the cause.

"When we give up hope that the government can reform itself, we will call for toppling it," Sheik Ahmed Abu Risha said in his well-guarded family compound near the banks of the Euphrates. "If this government does not disband itself, we will head to Baghdad and stage protests in the streets and paralyze the government's work until it falls apart."

When the last U.S. troops

withdrew from Iraq in December 2011, there was hope that majority Shiites and minority Sunnis and Kurds would learn to work together, resolve their differences and create a healthy democracy in a country with a history of strong-arm rule.

But as the 10th anniversary of the March 20, 2003 U.S.-led invasion approaches next month, the same sectarian tensions stirred up by the war are flaring again—in no small part, many Sunnis say, because of Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki's attempts to consolidate power.

Nobody is predicting a return to open warfare. The Sunnis know they stand little chance of overpowering the Shiites, who dominate the government, army and police. Nor do the majority of Iraq's Sunni Arabs, including protesters, support al-Qaida and its frequent widespread bombings of Shiite targets.

But Abu Risha's comments in an interview on Monday with The Associated Press

point to growing impatience among demonstrators in the vast western province of Anbar and other predominantly Sunni areas. Their bitterness has only increased since the shooting deaths of several demonstrators by Iraqi security forces in nearby Fallujah late last month.

Abu Risha carries considerable weight in Anbar. He took over leadership of the province's Sahwa movement, a Sunni tribal militia that joined the U.S.-led fight against insurgents, after his brother was assassinated in 2007. The Sahwa members' decision to fight alongside American forces is widely credited with helping turn the tide against al-Qaida.

Cars heading to the border with Jordan and Syria detour along a well-worn dirt path to avoid a tent city straddling the highway outside Ramadi that has become the focus for nearly two months of rallies. The more than 50 tents now have cinder-block foundations built directly on the pavement to keep the rainwater out.

WORLD BRIEFS

Chavez back in Venezuela, stirs succession talk

CARACAS, Venezuela (AP)—Hugo Chavez's sudden return to Venezuela after more than two months of cancer treatments in Cuba has fanned speculation that the president could be preparing to relinquish power and make way for a successor and a new election. The government is insisting that Chavez remains in charge, playing an upbeat jingle on state television Tuesday with the message: "He's back, he's back!" But political analysts said he could soon take the oath of office in a delayed swearing-in ceremony as a first step toward a formal resignation, and a transition of power. Taking the oath, however, wouldn't be required for the country's congress and Supreme Court to call a new election.

Israeli leader brings dovish rival into coalition

JERUSALEM (AP)—Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu on Tuesday added his first coalition partner as he works to build a new government, agreeing to bring in a dovish rival to oversee contacts with the Palestinians in what could signal a new approach to peacemaking by the hardline leader. Under the deal, former Foreign Minister Tzipi Livni will serve as justice minister in the next Israeli government, in charge of peace efforts with the Palestinians. Livni, who led negotiations during the last substantive round of peace talks four years ago, has a good relationship with Palestinian President Mahmoud Abbas and favors a softer line than Netanyahu.

Focus

Costa Rica toughens stance in US-backed drug fight

LIBERIA, Costa Rica (AP)—On a recent Friday morning at a gleaming new international airport in Costa Rica, hundreds of tourists from New York and Minnesota emerged blinking onto the sun-blasted tarmac. At the other end of the runway, eight Americans zipped into tan flight suits aboard a massive white surveillance plane.

As four propellers roared, the P3 Orion flew out above the tourists and over the hotels and beach clubs of the Pacific coast, its bulbous radar dish scanning for speedboats loaded with U.S.-bound cocaine. In the cabin's bank of radar screens, a dot pulsed just north of Panamanian waters. The P3 swooped down to 1,000 feet and soared past a tiny Costa Rican fishing boat. Using a long-lensed digital camera, one of the military veterans snapped a string of photos. A colleague radioed the boat's details back to the U.S.

This prosperous paradise of golden beaches and lush cloud-forest preserves is throwing itself wholeheartedly into the U.S. war on drugs as a flood of cocaine shipments and a surge in domestic crime erodes Costa Ricans' sense of proud isolation from the problems of the rest of Central America. Crime levels here are among the lowest in the region, but many Costa Ricans fear even the slightest possibility that their country could become more like Mexico, Guatemala or Honduras, where the unchecked power of drug cartels and ordinary criminals have millions of people living in fear.

In 1948, Costa Rica abolished its army, plowing money into education, social benefits and environmental preservation. As a result, Costa Rican officials say, the country whose laidback national slogan is "pura vida"—pure life—is poorly equipped to battle ruthless and well-equipped Mexican drug cartels. To assist, the U.S. is patrolling Costa Rica's skies and waters while also providing millions of dollars in training and equipment. The Costa Rican government, in turn, has launched a tough line on crime backed by a top-to-bottom transformation of its law-enforcement and justice systems.

"Costa Rica is today the closest the U.S. has to a protectorate in Central America," said Sam Logan, director of Southern Pulse, a risk-analysis firm focused on Latin America.

Fed up with crime, many Costa Ricans are welcoming the change. A wide range of serious crimes have risen sharply in Costa Rica over the last decade, though some, like homicide, have begun to dip.

"Security in general is going backwards. You can't walk in peace in the street, you're not at peace at home, or anywhere," said Roberto Arce, a 23-year-old university student.

But a small group of critics fear that the orderly and deeply democratic nation known as "The Switzerland of Central America" may be losing fundamental aspects of its identity by implementing its own version of the "iron fist" policies in place around the region.

"The United States' fight against drugs, militarizing it, using violence, above all in the cases of Colombia and Mexico, hasn't led to results," said Car-



In this Jan. 25, 2013 photo, a detection officer with U.S. Customs and Border Protection takes photos of a potential drug-carrying boat from inside a P3 Orion Airborne Early Warning Aircraft while flying over waters near the Pacific coast of Costa Rica.

men Munoz, a congresswoman who oversees human rights and national security issues for the opposition Citizens' Action Party and has worked to block U.S. warships from landing at Costa Rican ports.

"We have a tremendous fear that their goal is also to militarize the war against drugs in Central America," she said.

In recent years, Costa Rica has become a base for warehousing and repackaging drugs from Colombia that are then sent north to Mexico and the U.S., officials say. Investigations have confirmed the presence of some of Mexico's most-feared cartels, including the Familia Michoacana, the Sinaloa Cartel and the Gulf Cartel, said Mauricio Boraschi Hernandez, Costa Rica's National Anti-Drug Commissioner. Police also suspect the presence of groups allied with the Zetas, the brutal paramilitary cartel blamed for some of Mexico's most gruesome drug war massacres.

Costa Rica's growing role in international smuggling has fueled the growth of local drug markets, criminal organizations and crimes ranging from homicide to simple burglary, officials say. The country's crime levels remain the second-lowest in Central America, after Nicaragua, and while tourism hasn't suffered, concern about crime among Costa Ricans is sky-high: the regional LatinoBarometro found last year that Costa Ricans have the second-highest perception of insecurity in Latin America, topped only by Venezuela.

"We have a serious problem," said Carlos Alvarado Valverde, head of the Costa Rican Institute on Drugs, a government agency charged with coordinating national anti-drug policy. "You're not only seeing the growth of the internal market for drug consumption, but the youth are increasingly being recruited for the crime of drug trafficking ... we're talking about true

national criminal organizations dedicated to this."

In response, Costa Rica's conservative government has proposed looser wiretapping laws, easier confiscation of suspect assets and quicker approval of U.S. warships docking in Costa Rican ports. President Laura Chinchilla also wants to drop a longstanding ban on extraditing Costa Ricans for prosecution.

As her government cracks down, the United States is training its officials to detect drugs and laundered money. Washington is equipping Costa Ricans with gear ranging from night vision goggles to a \$2 million satellite and radio communications station on the Pacific Coast linked to the U.S. anti-drug command in Key West. The U.S. spent more than \$18.4 million in direct security to Costa Rica last year.

Logan said the U.S. has deeper ties to Costa Rica than to other Central American countries receiving secu-

rity and financial aid from Washington. The links include hundreds of millions of dollars in annual tourism revenue and massive amounts of real-estate investment, particularly in retirement and vacation homes. And Costa Rica's lack of an army makes it particularly dependent on U.S. security aid, he said.

"The United States is, and continues to be, the best ally that we have," Boraschi said. "We're becoming, I believe, a good partner."

The United States has funded the construction of two coast guard stations on the Pacific coast and donated two new interceptor boats worth \$1.8 million. It funded Costa Rican police training with Latin American military special operations forces at an annual exercise run by the U.S. Southern Command. The U.S. has also spent more than \$500,000 to help build a police crime-mapping computer network that the U.S. Embassy likens to the CompStat system partly credited with helping the New York Police Department reduce crime to historic lows.

A U.S. Treasury expert on money-laundering is embedded with Costa Rican law enforcement, helping train them on the fight against illicit funds.

Officials say their crackdown is producing more arrests and drug seizures, although they acknowledge that the rising numbers may also be driven by a higher volume of drugs entering the country.

Seizures of cocaine are on the rise, hitting 15 metric tons last year, although the number has risen and fallen over the years. The number of drug organizations Costa Rica says it's taken down doubled from 2006 to 2012, when 110 local and international drug gangs were hit.

Costa Rica's prison population increased more than 50 percent from 2006 to 2012 after it implemented quicker trials for criminal suspects allegedly caught in the act. Costa Rica now has the third-highest incarceration rate in Central America, after El Salvador and Panama.

Many of those jailed in Costa Rica's drug fight are being held for relatively minor crimes.

Vanessa Jimenez Monge, a 34-year-old mother of three young children, was sentenced to eight years in prison on drug possession charges after police raided the house she shared with her brother, who was dealing crack and marijuana.

After a year behind bars, she hopes to get out in a little less than two for good behavior. Her children have been taken into custody by the government.

"With my children, it's has been my worst nightmare," she said in an interview, her eyes tearing. "They're almost institutionalized, just like me."

The director of the prison where Jimenez lives has become an unlikely critic of Costa Rica's get-tough policies after watching the population she oversees double during her six years in charge. Most inmates are there for drug-related crimes.

"We'll put more penalties in place," according to them that's the solution," director Mariela de los Angeles Chaves said. "It's not going to relieve the pressure."

Environment

EPA invites communities to apply for Smart Growth Assistance

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency is inviting applications from communities interested in exploring barriers to smart growth and testing innovative strategies that can create healthier, more sustainable places to live, work, and play.

EPA's Smart Growth Implementation Assistance (SGIA) program provides technical assistance to help communities grow in ways that improve the local economy, the environment, and people's health. The program aims to help applicants develop solutions to local challenges, such as managing stormwater, increasing transit-oriented development, and adapting to climate change, and to share those solutions with other communities.

EPA will be accepting applications from tribal, local, regional, and state governments and nonprofit organizations that have partnered with a governmental entity for their request for assistance. Applications will be accepted until March 1, 2013. EPA will provide assistance to three to four communities selected from this round of applications.

EPA is seeking applications in the following four categories:

1 Community Resilience to Disasters and Climate Change: Projects

ON THE NET

- SGIA program and applications: <http://epa.gov/smartgrowth/sgia.htm>
- Partnership for Sustainable Communities: <http://www.sustainable-communities.gov>

should aim to develop planning principles and building design guidelines that ensure future development provides communities with better protection against storms, floods, and other natural disasters.

2 Redevelopment for Job Creation:

Projects should aim to support growing industries that provide quality jobs for existing residents using land use policies that direct development to existing neighborhoods, are pedestrian-friendly, allow for transit connections, and are close to businesses and public services.

3 Manufactured and Modular Homes in Sustainable Neighborhood Design:

Projects should help communities that are using manufactured and modular homes to address sudden population and economic growth. These communities should provide a mix of uses and maximize existing streets and other infrastructure investments, community gathering spaces, and water and energy efficiency.

4 Medical and Social Service Facilities Siting:

Projects should aim

to explore planning for high-quality community service facilities, including health care centers and social services centers, in ways that support neighborhood economic development and healthy communities.

Since 2005, the SGIA program has helped an array of communities from across the country on issues such as stormwater management, code revision, transit-oriented development, affordable housing, infill development, corridor planning, green building, and climate change. In 2009, the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) and the U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT) became involved with the SGIA program through the Partnership for Sustainable Communities. This interagency collaboration coordinates federal investments in infrastructure, facilities, and services to get better results for communities and use taxpayer money more efficiently. In many cases, HUD and DOT serve on the SGIA technical assistance teams, and help identify how SGIA projects can complement and build on past and future federal investments. (USEPA)

Heavy equipment pushes garbage around at the county landfill in Holly Springs, North Carolina, June 16, 2011.

AP

Scientists: Classify plastics as hazardous to reduce debris

By KENNETH R. WEISS
LOS ANGELES TIMES

LOS ANGELES—Less than half of the 280 million metric tons of plastic produced each year ends up in the landfill. A fair bit of the rest ends up littering the landscape, blown by the wind or washed down streams and rivers into the sea.

So far Americans spend \$520 million a year to clean up plastic litter washing up on West Coast beaches and shorelines. Efforts to clean up the oceans' enormous swirling gyres of garbage has an incalculable cost. Thus, much of the focus has been on how to stop the river of trash from entering the ocean.

A team of 10 scientists has come up with an idea of how to make that happen: reclassify the most harmful plastic waste as hazardous material. That simple adjustment, the scientists write in the journal *Nature*, could trigger sweeping changes in how environmental agencies clean up plastic waste, spur innovation in polymer research and replace problematic plastics with safer ones.

The United States, Europe, Japan and other nations classify plastic as solid waste, treating their disposal much like food scraps or grass clippings, said Mark Anthony Browne, a

co-author of the article. It's an outdated view that plastics are inert, he said, ignoring scientific evidence in recent years—including the work of co-author and doctoral student Chelsea M. Rochman—that plastic debris is laden with highly toxic pollutants.

As plastic breaks down into microscopic fibers and specks, it can be inhaled or ingested by humans and wildlife. One study found that such microscopic fibers were present in human lung cancers. Seabirds that have consumed plastic waste have 300 percent greater concentrations of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCBs) in their tissues than other birds.

Governments have struggled to reduce plastic marine debris, with 134 nations banning the dumping of plastics by international convention in 1988. Yet it seems to have made little difference.

So the authors modeled their proposal after what has been arguably the most successful international environmental agreement in history: The classification of refrigerants called chlorofluorocarbons, or CFCs, as hazardous under the Montreal Protocol in 1989. Production of CFCs, which were burning a hole in the atmosphere's protective ozone layer,

stopped within seven years, and nearly 200 countries replaced 30 dangerous chemical groups with safer ones.

Rochman believes the same thing can happen if major plastic-producing nations were to take the first step of going after four types of plastics that are made of the most potentially toxic materials and are particularly difficult to recycle.

On the short list are: polyvinylchloride, or PVC, used in making plastic pipes; polystyrene, often known as Styrofoam and used in cups and clam-shell food containers; polyurethane, used in making furniture and car seats; and polycarbonate, a hard plastic used in making baby bottles, electronics and appliances.

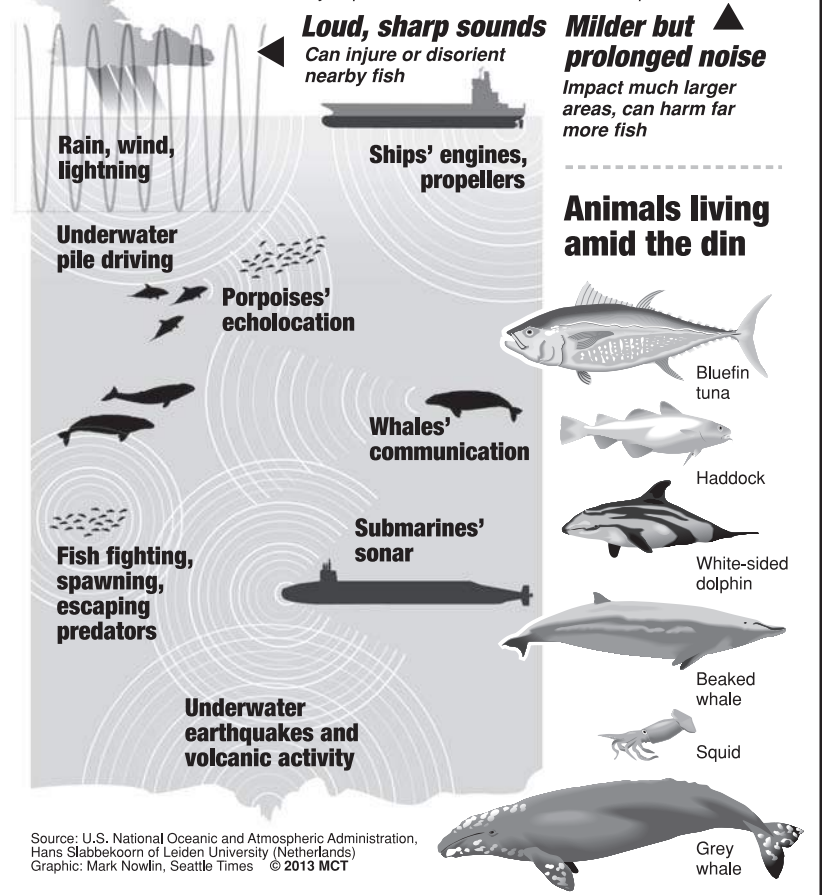
Once that is done, the authors say, governments might look at other types of plastic that are not made of particularly hazardous materials, but act like sponges absorbing toxic pollutants once unleashed in the oceans.

"We feel," the scientists write, "that the physical dangers of plastic debris are well enough established, and the suggestions of chemical dangers sufficiently worrying, that the biggest producers of plastic waste—the United States, Europe and China—must act now."

Science Matters

Noise rattles the 'silent deep'

A constant din of sound waves speeds through the oceans, and scientists still have much to learn about how they impact sea creatures' survival and reproduction.



DO YOUR PART

Oh baby! What's in your child's bath products?

By TERRI BENNETT
MCCLATCHY NEWSPAPERS

Who doesn't love the smell of a baby right after a bath? You know, the familiar scent of soap, lotion, and powder all wrapped up into one little bundle of joy. However, when parents and caregivers find out what's really in some of the most popular baby products, those scents are suddenly not so sweet smelling. Do Your Part to make sure your baby's sensitive skin is getting what it really needs and not what it doesn't.

It all starts with smart shopping. It can be incredibly difficult to determine what chemicals are in personal care products for babies because the makers aren't required to list all the ingredients on the label. Some chemicals used in popular brands may actually cause serious health problems, including damage to the nervous system and respiratory issues.

Some personal care companies may include harmful ingredients under the term "fragrance." That term is used to avoid listing things like phthalates, which can alter hormones. CosmeticDatabase.org is an easy-to-use resource to find what's in all the products so you can choose ones with the safest ingredients. Another good bet is to avoid products that contain these ingredients: quaternium-15, imidazolidinyl urea, diazolidinyl urea formalin, and methylene oxide.

To make it easier for you to shop, opt for products that are made from organ-

ic ingredients. That way you will know that these products are produced without using any harmful chemicals and are usually free of chemical preservatives, like parabens, that are suspected of causing more health problems. Organic products will also not contain artificial colors or synthetic fragrances.

Another safer option is to purchase products that contain mostly natural ingredients. Most of these items are paraben- and phthalate-free, but aren't produced using organic materials. Remember, the word "natural" can mean whatever the manufacturer wants it to, so do your homework to make sure you're really getting what you want. Visit DoYourPart.com/Columns for more resources that will help you track down that information.

It can be difficult to keep track of the ingredients you should be looking for and ones to avoid. So, your best bet is to keep it simple. The fewer ingredients listed on the back of the product's label, the better. Remember, everything that goes on our family's bodies eventually goes right back into the planet. That's why picking the eco-friendliest options are an important way to Do Your Part for your child's health and the health of the planet.

Terri Bennett is a veteran TV meteorologist, eco-expert and author of *Do Your Part: A practical guide for everyday green living available at DoYourPart.com. Send questions to terri@doyourpart.com.*

Life & Style

Nudes check out nudes at Austrian museum

VIENNA (AP)—These museum goers didn't just leave their coats at the coat check. They handed over their shirts, trousers and underwear.

Everything, in fact, except their shoes and socks. After all, the stone floor can get chilly when you're touring an art exhibit in the nude, which was what more than 60 art lovers did in a special after-hours showing at Vienna's prestigious Leopold museum.

For many, the tour of "Nude Men from 1800 to Today"—an exhibit of 300 paintings, photographs, drawings and sculptures focused on the bare male—was a goose-bump-raising instance of life imitating art.

"I can't say I'm sweating," said office worker Herbert Korvas as he stood waiting in the atrium with other young men, wearing only socks, sneakers and a smile. Despite the cold, he said he was drawn to the idea of naked museum viewing "because it was something different."

But after a while it really wasn't. With no other viewers



In this Monday, Feb. 18, 2013 photo, Naked Museum visitors look at pictures of the show "Nude Men from 1800 to Today" during a special opening to friends of nudism at the Leopold Museum, Vienna, Austria.

around, nude quickly became the new normal as the visitors quickly gathered around a—dressed—exhibition guide and moved slowly from one art work to the next, listening in-

tently to their history.

And they weren't the first visitors to get naked either, despite the hoopla around the event that drew dozens of reporters and camera teams from

Austria and elsewhere.

A man had already stripped at the exhibition of pictures and sculptures in November, calmly sauntering through the exhibition and dressing again only after a security guard asked him to do so. That act made news—and sparked demand for Monday's

all-nude showing, said museum spokesman Klaus Pokorny.

"We got requests from all over the world from people who were inspired by the exhibition ... who asked us, 'Can we visit the exhibition naked?'" he said.

On Monday, interest was definitely skewed along gender lines. Irina Wolf smiled as she looked around at the mostly male crowd lining up for tickets.

"I'm at a big advantage here," she said. "Only men around."

While Wolf said she is not someone who regularly strips in public places, the 40-something computer engineer and occasional theater critic, said "I want to see how I relate to such a group."

For others, Monday's event fulfilled a long-cherished wish—even though they had a hard time explaining why.

Florian Kahlenberg from Munich said he found it "interesting to stroll through a museum naked," adding. "I've always wanted to do that."

Few visitors, naked or dressed, have complained about the show, despite some explicit material showing sexual acts. Described as among the most successful ever staged by the

Leopold, it has drawn well over 100,000 people.

That fits with Vienna's relaxed attitude. Its turn-of-the-century decadence allowed Egon Schiele and Gustav Klimt to flourish, and the Leopold itself has a world-class collection of those and other artists known for their explicit depiction of the flesh.

But the Austrian capital's acceptance of nudity goes beyond museum exhibits. Thousands of men, women and children skinny dip daily in the Danube along stretches reserved for them during the summer, while racy lingerie ads dot huge billboards across the city all year round and a mass-circulation daily regularly prints photos of half-naked women.

Still, there are limits to Viennese tolerance. The Leopold was forced into cover-up mode last year after complaints over promotional posters plastered city-wide that showed three young and athletic men of different races wearing nothing but blue, white and red socks and soccer boots.

Swaths of red tape were subsequently placed over their sensitive parts.

CHART TOPPERS

The top 10 songs and albums on the iTunes Store for the week ending Feb. 18, 2013:

TOP SONGS:

1. "Thrift Shop (feat. Wanz)," Ryan Lewis, Macklemore
2. "Stay (feat. Mikky Ekko)," Rihanna
3. "Harlem Shake," Baauer
4. "When I Was Your Man," Bruno Mars
5. "Suit & Tie (feat. JAY Z)," Justin Timberlake
6. "Ho Hey," The Lumineers
7. "I Will Wait," Mumford & Sons
8. "Started from the Bottom," Drake
9. "Mirrors," Justin Timberlake
10. "Scream & Shout (feat. Britney Spears)," will.i.am

TOP ALBUMS:

1. "Babel," Mumford & Sons
2. "The 20/20 Experience," Justin Timberlake
3. "Pitch Perfect (Original Motion Picture Soundtrack)," Various Artists
4. "Overexposed," Maroon 5
5. "Some Nights," Fun.
6. "The Lumineers," The Lumineers
7. "Unorthodox Jukebox," Bruno Mars
8. "2013 Grammy Nominees," Various Artists
9. "El Camino," The Black Keys
10. "+," Ed Sheeran

The top iPhone and iPad apps on App Store for the week ending Feb. 18, 2013:

TOP PAID IPHONE APPS:

1. Clear Vision 2 (DPFLASHES STUDIO)
2. Minecraft - Pocket Edition (Mojang)
3. WhatsApp Messenger (WhatsApp Inc.)
4. Angry Birds Star Wars (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)
5. Wood Camera - Vintage Photo Editor (Bright Mango)
6. Fruit Ninja (Halfbrick Studios)
7. Plague Inc. (Ndemic Creations)
8. CraftedBattle (C-Apps)
9. Haze (Robocat)
10. Arms Cartel Global (Pixel Addicts)

TOP FREE IPHONE APPS:

1. 4 Pics 1 Word (LOTUM GmbH)
2. Lazors (Pyrosphere)
3. iMadeFace (Keyloft LLC)
4. Temple Run 2 (Imangi Studios, LLC)
5. YouTube (Google, Inc.)
6. What's the Word? - new quiz with pics and words (RedSpell)
7. Fast Camera (i4software)
8. Infinity Blade (Chair Entertainment Group, LLC)
9. Google Maps (Google, Inc.)
10. Ruzzle (MAG Interactive)

TOP PAID IPAD APPS:

1. Minecraft - Pocket Edition (Mojang)
2. Angry Birds Star Wars HD (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)
3. Pages (Apple)
4. Fionna Fights - Adventure Time (Cartoon Network)
5. Bad Piggies HD (Rovio Entertainment Ltd)
6. FIFA SOCCER 13 by EA SPORTS (Electronic Arts)
7. Trainz Driver - train driving game and realistic railroad simulator (N3V Games Pty Ltd)
8. Where's My Perry? (Disney)
9. TETRIS for iPad (Electronic Arts)
10. The Room (Fireproof Games)

TOP FREE IPAD APPS:

1. Infinity Blade (Chair Entertainment Group, LLC)
2. 4 Pics 1 Word (LOTUM GmbH)
3. Temple Run 2 (Imangi Studios, LLC)
4. YouTube (Google, Inc.)
5. Tiny Dentist (fantastoonie)
6. Calculator for iPad Free (International Travel Weather Calculator)
7. Candy Crush Saga (King.com Limited)
8. Skype for iPad (Skype Communications S.a.r.l)
9. Netflix (Netflix, Inc.)
10. What's the Word HD (RedSpell)

IN LOVING MEMORY OF LORRAINE "ILAGHALI" OGUMORO SANTOS

October 15, 1976 – February 15, 2013

In Her New Life, She Now Joins Her:

Parents: Joseph Taman Ogumoro & Doris Taisakan Ogumoro

Grandparents: Benedicto Satur Taisakan
Magdalena Teregeyo Taisakan
Estefania Taman Ogumoro

Her Memories Will Live In The Hearts of Her:

Common Law Husband: Joaquin M. Igisomar

Children: Dorina Leimal, Joseph Paul, Devin Jack & Trey
Siblings: Lorna Ilap O. & Francisco Romeo Iginof

Laurie Lem T. Ogumoro
Rona Lemfisch T. Ogumoro
John Diego T. Rebuenog & Elsie S. Tilipao

Aunts & Uncles: Joaquina T. & Ignacio Mendiola, Rosa T. & Theodore Joab, Maria Malua T. & David K. Peter, Ignacia T. & Guillermo L. Saures, Antonio N. & Susan Satur, Ramona T. & Diego Rebuenog, Domitilla I. Taisakan & Santiago Saures, Valentin T. & Cris N. Taisakan, Sinforsosa T. & Pedro S. Kaipat, Engracia T. & Juan Pelisamen, Marina I. & Paul Santos, Combiniano T. Taisakan & Molly Retan, Maria T. & Leo L. Saures

Felicidad T. Ogumoro & Francisco Uludong, Merced Ogumoro and Family, Martina O. & Donald Barcinas, Joaquin T. & Lori Ogumoro, Laura T. Ogumoro & John M. Tagabuel, Therese T. Ogumoro and Family, Paul T. & Shirley C. Ogumoro

Nightly rosary is being said at 7:30 pm at the family residence in Capitol Hill.

On **Friday, February 22, 2013**, the remains of our beloved will be transported from the CHC Morgue to the family residence in Capitol Hill at 4:00pm immediately follow by Responso service. The rosary will be said at 7:30pm and 11:30pm.

On **Saturday, February 23, 2013**, our beloved will be transported to the Mount Carmel Cathedral at 9:15am for the Eucharistic Celebration at 10:00am followed by interment service at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your thoughts and prayers are deeply appreciated

The Family

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\$2.50	Additional for 3D Shows

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Escape From Planet Earth 3D

Friday		9:45
Saturday and Sunday	4:00	9:45
Monday	4:00	
Tues through Thurs		

Cast: Brendan Fraser, Sarah Jessica Parker, Jessica Alba
Genre: Animation, Adventure, Comedy • Rated PG

Synopsis

Astronaut Scorcher Supernova finds himself caught in a trap when he responds to an SOS from a notoriously dangerous alien planet.



Escape From Planet Earth 2D

Friday		7:00
Saturday and Sunday	1:00	7:00
Monday	1:00	7:00
Tues through Thurs		7:00

Cast: Brendan Fraser, Sarah Jessica Parker, Jessica Alba
Genre: Animation, Adventure, Comedy • Rated PG



Good Day To Die Hard

Friday		7:05	9:35
Saturday and Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Monday	1:05	4:05	7:05
Tues through Thurs		4:05	7:05

Cast: Bruce Willis, Cole Hauser, Jai Courtney
Genre: Action • Rated R

Synopsis

The story is set in Russia and begins with John McClane heading to Moscow to sweet talk some cops into letting his apparently-wayward son out of jail for something he did, but when he gets there, things surrounding his son's arrest are not as they appear and world-threatening terrorist hijinks ensue.



Beautiful Creatures

Friday		7:30	10:00
Saturday and Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Monday	1:30	4:30	7:30
Tues through Thurs		4:30	7:30

Cast: Emma Rossum, Emma Thompson, Jeremy Irons
Genre: Romance, Fantasy • Rated PG 13



Safe Haven

Friday		7:20	9:50
Saturday and Sunday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Monday	1:20	4:20	7:20
Tues through Thurs		4:20	7:20

Cast: Julianne Hough, Josh Duhamel, David Lyons
Genre: Romance • Rated PG 13



Identity Thief

Friday		7:10	9:55
Saturday and Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Monday	1:10	4:10	7:10
Tues through Thurs		4:10	7:10

Cast: Jason Bateman, Melissa McCarthy, John Cho
Genre: Comedy • Rated R



Warm Bodies

Friday		7:15	9:30
Saturday and Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Monday	1:15	4:15	7:15
Tues through Thurs		4:15	7:15

Cast: Nicholas Hoult, Teresa Palmer, John Malkovich
Genre: Romance, Horror • Rated PG 13



Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters 3D

Friday		7:25	9:40
Saturday and Sunday	1:25	7:25	9:40
Monday	1:25	7:25	
Tues through Thurs		7:25	

Cast: Jeremy Renner, Gemma Arterton, Famke Janssen
Genre: Adventure • Rated R



Hansel and Gretel: Witch Hunters 2D

Friday		4:25
Saturday and Sunday		4:25
Monday		4:25
Tues through Thurs		4:25

Cast: Jeremy Renner, Gemma Arterton, Famke Janssen
Genre: Adventure • Rated R

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Tabloid slams novelist Mantel over Kate comments

LONDON (AP)—A novelist, a duchess and a tabloid newspaper have ignited an explosive debate in Britain: Is it all right to criticize a pregnant Kate?

The Daily Mail on Tuesday ran a front-page broadside against two-time Booker Prize-winning author Hilary Mantel for what it called her “venomous attack” on the former Kate Middleton, now the Duchess of Cambridge.

Within hours, the Internet was ablaze. Prime Minister David Cameron joined in the criticism of Mantel while others rushed to her defense.

In a speech earlier this month, the writer had characterized the 31-year-old wife of Prince William as “a jointed doll on which certain rags were hung ... a shop-window mannequin, with no personality of her own.”

Mantel said that Kate, as a royal consort, “appeared to have been designed by committee and built by craftsmen, with a perfect plastic smile and the spindles of her limbs hand-turned and gloss-varnished.”

Mantel’s speech, made at the British Museum and reprinted this week in the London Review of Books, was about the British public’s complex relationship with royalty over the centuries—a relationship both symbiotic and voyeuristic.

The speech looked at the way the public and the press both glorify and destroy royals, from Anne Boleyn to Princess Diana, casting them in roles and stories in which “adulation can swing to persecution, within hours.”

But for the Daily Mail, this became “an astonishing and venomous attack on the Duchess of Cambridge.”



Britain's Kate, The Duchess of Cambridge waves as she leaves after a visit to Hope House, in London, Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2013.

The newspaper’s front page juxtaposed pictures of the author and the duchess alongside the front-page headline: “A plastic princess designed to breed.”

It quoted Mantel’s speech at length, although it did not note that the 60-year-old author was describing what she saw as a view of Kate constructed by the press and public opinion.

Online reaction was divided, with some defending Mantel’s words as pro-

vocative and thoughtful and others calling them hurtful.

Cameron—on a trip to India—said Mantel’s comments were “completely misguided and completely wrong.”

Claudia Joseph, author of “Kate: The Making of a Princess,” said it was unfair to describe Kate as lacking in personality. Joseph said the duchess was instead someone who “has learned to keep her feelings hidden and private.”

“The reason William chose Kate is because she is discreet and doesn’t show her feelings in public,” Joseph said. “That doesn’t mean she has no feelings.”

Others argued that Mantel’s real target was not Kate but the press. On the Daily Telegraph website, journalist Catherine Scott said Mantel’s speech was “an attack on how some parts of the media canonize royal women ... while also rendering them voiceless and purposeless.”

The royal couple’s office declined to comment, while a call placed with Mantel’s agent after business hours went unanswered.

Meanwhile, large numbers of journalists and photographers were on hand Tuesday to watch the duchess as she visited a center for recovering addicts. It was one of her first public appearances since announcing in December that she was pregnant. News reports commented on the duchess’s baby bump, gestures, demeanor and Max Mara dress.

Mantel won the prestigious Booker Prize in 2009 for “Wolf Hall” and in 2012 for “Bring Up the Bodies,” novels set at the court of King Henry VIII and centered on the king’s search for a queen who will give him a male heir.

LES QUIZERABLES: OSCARS TRIVIA QUIZ

By MARK CARO
CHICAGO TRIBUNE

Are you ready to tussle with the formidable 23rd Os-Caro Quiz? Argo knock yourself out.

1. Adele’s “Skyfall” could become the first best song winner for a James Bond theme. Which one of the following was not a best song nominee?

- A. Goldfinger
- B. Live and Let Die
- C. Nobody Does It Better (The Spy Who Loved Me)
- D. For Your Eyes Only

2. Oscars host Seth MacFarlane could win a statuette for best song; he co-wrote “Everybody Needs a Best Friend,” from “Ted.” Who is the only person to win an Oscar the same year he was a host?

- A. Sammy Davis, Jr.
- B. Jack Lemmon
- C. Shirley MacLaine
- D. David Niven

3. Emmanuelle Riva (“Amour”), 85, and Quvenzhané Wallis (“Beasts of the Southern Wild”), 9, are, respectively, the oldest and youngest best actress nominees ever. Who are the oldest and youngest best actor nominees ever?

- A. Henry Fonda and Mickey Rooney
- B. Richard Farnsworth and Jackie Cooper
- C. Clint Eastwood and John Travolta
- D. Peter O’Toole and Justin Henry

4. Who of the following nominated actresses had her first credited movie or TV role at the youngest age?

- A. Sally Field
- B. Anne Hathaway
- C. Helen Hunt
- D. Jennifer Lawrence

5. “Argo” is considered a best picture favorite despite director Ben Affleck not being nominated. Which is not one of the three

movies to win best picture without a director nomination?

- A. Cimarron
- B. Driving Miss Daisy
- C. Grand Hotel
- D. Wings

6. Affleck won the Directors Guild of America feature-film award despite the Oscar snub. Three of these directors won the DGA honor but not the Oscar in the same year. Which one did not?

- A. Francis Coppola
- B. Ang Lee
- C. Martin Scorsese
- D. Steven Spielberg

7. Some speculate that “Argo” could win best picture and no other Oscars. What was the last best picture winner to take home only that award?

- A. Chariots of Fire
- B. The Greatest Show on Earth
- C. Mutiny on the Bounty
- D. Grand Hotel

8. As an “Argo” producer, George Clooney became the second person to have been nominated for best picture, director, screenplay and actor. Who was the first?

- A. Warren Beatty
- B. Charlie Chaplin
- C. Robert Redford
- D. Orson Welles

9. True or false: If Daniel Day-Lewis is awarded best actor for “Lincoln,” he will become the first person to win an Oscar for playing an actual U.S. president.

- A. True

B. False
10. Which president has not previously been portrayed in an Oscar-nominated performance?

- A. John Quincy Adams
- B. Harry S. Truman
- C. Richard Nixon
- D. John F. Kennedy

11. Which actor has been nominated twice for playing U.S. presidents?

- A. Anthony Hopkins
- B. Frank Langella
- C. Raymond Massey
- D. James Whitmore

12. “Lincoln” leads the field with 12 nominations. What was the last movie with at least 12 nominations not to win best picture?

- A. The Social Network
- B. The Curious Case of Benjamin Button
- C. Saving Private Ryan
- D. The Color Purple

13. “Lincoln” producers Kathleen Kennedy and Steven Spielberg are now tied with a record-breaking eight best picture nominations. Which was not one of Kennedy’s other best picture nominees?

- A. The Curious Case of Benjamin Button
- B. Schindler’s List
- C. Seabiscuit
- D. The Sixth Sense

14. “Amour” is nominated for both best picture and best foreign-language film. Which one of the previous dual nominees did not win the foreign-language film Oscar?

- A. Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon
- B. The Emigrants
- C. Life Is Beautiful
- D. Z

15. “Silver Linings Playbook”

earned Oscar nominations in all four acting categories. What was the last movie with that distinction?

- A. Little Miss Sunshine
- B. The Silence of the Lambs
- C. Reds
- D. Who’s Afraid of Virginia Woolf?

16. What was the last movie with nominees in all four acting categories to win best picture?

- A. The Silence of the Lambs
- B. Network
- C. From Here to Eternity
- D. Mrs. Miniver

17. “Life of Pi” is this year’s sole best picture nominee with no acting nominations. What was the last best picture winner with no acting nominations?

- A. Slumdog Millionaire
- B. The Lord of the Rings: The Return of the King
- C. Braveheart
- D. The Last Emperor

18. Which movie features three current Oscar nominees who also were nominated for 2005 Oscars?

- A. Argo
- B. Lincoln
- C. The Master
- D. Silver Linings Playbook

19. Nine of this year’s acting nominees are previous Oscar winners. Who of the following has not won for each prior nomination?

- A. Sally Field
- B. Helen Hunt
- C. Christoph Waltz
- D. Denzel Washington

20. Which current acting nominee received his or her first Oscar nomination the longest ago?

- A. Alan Arkin
- B. Robert De Niro
- C. Sally Field
- D. Tommy Lee Jones

ANSWERS:

1. A; 2. D; 3. B; 4. C; 5. A; 6. C; 7. C; 8. A; 9. A; 10. D; 11. A; 12. B; 13. B; 14. B; 15. C; 16. C; 17. A; 18. C; 19. D; 20. A

DiCaprio calls for ivory trade ban in Thailand

BANGKOK (AP)—Leonardo DiCaprio wants Thailand to ban all ivory trade in the country as part of a global campaign to tackle illegal wildlife crimes.

World Wildlife Fund and the actor were encouraging people to sign a petition urging Prime Minister Yingluck Shinawatra to ban the trade and save African and Asian elephants from

illegal poaching.

Although Thai law prohibits sales of African tusks in the kingdom, ivory from domesticated elephants can be traded legally.

Activists say the loophole encourages massive quantities of African

ivory to be illegally imported to Thailand each year.

WWF quoted DiCaprio's appeal as warning that elephants and other species are being threatened by the demand for their parts.

"Whole populations are at

risk of being wiped out if we don't take immediate action to shut down this illicit trade," it quoted him as saying.

The 38-year-old DiCaprio has long been an environmental activist and is on the WWF board. His most recent film was "Django Unchained" and he stars in the upcoming Baz Luhrmann remake of "The Great Gatsby."



DiCaprio

Quincy Jones launches music education application

ATLANTA (AP)—Quincy Jones says he has co-created the music version of Rosetta Stone.

The 79-year-old composer-producer launched a new music education application Tuesday called Playground Sessions, which teaches users how to play the piano. He said the app will help children and adults learn how to read music and understand the mechanics of piano playing.

There's "such a need for this," Jones said in an interview last week. "The concept

is brand-new. I have been praying for this for a long time. It has a learning concept similar to Rosetta Stone. I'm blown away by this."



Jones

Playground Sessions is a musical app with real-time feedback and video tutorials from pianist David Sides. It features about 70 popular songs by Beyonce and Justin Bieber, and well-known tunes like Katy Perry's "Firework" and Frank Sinatra's "New York, New York."

Jones, who produced Michael Jackson's "Thriller"

and other successful albums, hopes Playground Sessions will have an impact on music education programs in schools around the world. One of first schools that will use the app is Jones' alma mater, Garfield High School in Seattle.

"Our kids in this country know less than any other country," Jones said of music education in the United States. "We need something like Playground Sessions to push us forward."

Chris Vance, who co-created the app and founded Playground Sessions, got together with Jones more than a year ago after working alone on the

application for three years. He said Jones immediately saw a vision for the product and wanted to make learning music a fun experience.

Vance also said Sides was an easy pick when he was selecting a pianist for the project. Jones calls Sides a very talented piano player who has an engaging personality.

"I wish I had someone like him teaching me how to play the piano," Jones said of Sides, known for his popular piano covers on YouTube, including his rendition of OneRepublic's "Apologize," which has garnered more than 10 million views.

Clive Davis reveals in memoir that he's bisexual

NEW YORK (AP)—Record executive Clive Davis says he's bisexual.

In his new memoir, out Tuesday, the twice-divorced 80-year-old reveals that he had sex with a man in the 1970s. Davis writes in "The Soundtrack of My Life" that he hadn't been repressed or confused during his marriages and that sex with a man "provided welcome relief."

He also writes that he started

dating a man from 1990 to 2004, which he says was a "tough adjustment" for his son Mitchell. He says after "one trying year," he and his son worked things out. Davis is the father of three children.

Davis is the chief creative officer of Sony Music Entertainment. He writes that he's been in a "strong monogamous relationship" with a man for the last seven years.

Alec Baldwin, NY photographer file harass claims

NEW YORK (AP)—New York City police are investigating harassment complaints made by actor Alec Baldwin and a New York Post newspaper photographer after an altercation.

According to police, photographer G.N. Miller says the former "30 Rock" star yelled racial epithets and other insults when he was trying to take pictures of the actor outside his Manhattan apartment.

Baldwin maintains he yelled at the photographer but never said anything racist. He called the allegations "outrageous."



Baldwin

Baldwin called police and filed a harassment complaint Monday. The photographer later filed a cross-complaint.

The police department's Hate Crimes Task force was looking into the allegations.

The Post had no comment beyond its published report.



AP

This Feb. 18, 2013 photo shows Sony Music Entertainment's Chief Creative Officer of and famous hitmaker Clive Davis posing for a portrait in New York.

'Les Miserables' musical is Broadway-bound

NEW YORK (AP)—Someone is dreaming the dream: "Les Miserables" is coming back to Broadway.

Producer Cameron Mackintosh said Tuesday that the national tour of the epic musical about life in 19th-century France will make a stop on Broadway in March 2014 at a Shubert theater.

The move comes on the heels of the Oscar-nominated big screen adaptation directed by Tom Hooper and starring Hugh

Jackman, Russell Crowe and Anne Hathaway.

It will mark the third time the show has made it to Broadway. The original landed in 1987 and played 6,680 performances, ranking as the third-longest-running musical in Broadway history. A revival was mounted in 2006 but closed in 2008.

Mackintosh, who has also been involved in producing "The Phantom of the Opera," "Mary Poppins," "Miss Saigon" and "Cats," is betting that the appetite

for "Les Miserables" will only be increased by the movie. History has shown he might be right: Film version of such shows as "Chicago" and "The Phantom of the Opera" haven't hurt their box offices on Broadway.

Victor Hugo's monumental 1862 novel about a decades-long manhunt, social inequality and redemption features the songs "I Dreamed a Dream," "On My Own," "Do You Hear the People Sing?" and "One Day More." It has been seen

by nearly 65 million people worldwide in 42 countries and in 22 languages.

Mackintosh's production has music by Claude-Michel Schonberg, lyrics by Herbert Kretzmer from the original French text by Alain Boublil and Jean-Marc Natel and additional material by James Fenton.

The national tour, which is currently in North Charleston, S.C., was launched in November 2010 and has already played 64 cities throughout North America, grossing more than \$130 million.

Gentleman is slow to seal couple's dates with a kiss

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE



DEAR ABBY: I'm a 43-year-old single mom with three young boys. I am also a veteran and getting ready to go back to school. I have been dating a gentleman for two months now, and we get along great. He's three years older than I am and good with my kids and family.

I like him a lot and we seem to have a LOT in common—more than most. I really want him to kiss

me, but I don't want to seem pushy. He's a real gentleman. We have gone from hugs to holding hands while sitting on the couch watching television. I don't mind taking things slow, but ...

How do I find out if he wants to kiss me or not? Sometimes it seems like it, but then he seems afraid to. How do I let him know it's OK? Sorry I seem like a teenager.

Dear Abby

CONFUSED IN IDAHO

DEAR CONFUSED: This man isn't taking things slow. Glaciers have been known to move faster. Two months is a very long time to wait for a first kiss.

The next time you find yourself sitting on the couch and holding hands with him, you have my permission to turn to him and say, "I'd love it if you kissed me." If that doesn't do the trick, then face it—his feelings for you are only brotherly.

DEAR ABBY: You have written about children in grocery stores before. Would you please address the risk to children by allowing them to stand in grocery shopping carts? I see it all too often, and I don't think the parents/grandparents realize that if the child falls out and lands on his or her head, neck or back, the child could end up paralyzed or dead. The adult must be the rule setter and protect the child. But too often it's the child setting the limits, and the results can be tragic.

CONCERNED SHOPPER IN NEW YORK

DEAR CONCERNED SHOPPER: I'm glad to oblige. Many markets equip their shopping carts with seat belts to secure tiny passengers and avoid this problem. That way, any liability that might stem from a child falling would lie directly where it belongs, with the adult who should have been using common sense.

DEAR ABBY: My oldest friend owes me a lot of money. I loaned it to her when she was being evicted. She has now come into some money and is going on a cruise.

I asked her to repay me before the trip. She said she "needs the cruise for her mental health." I am shocked and very angry. When I lost my temper and told her off, she accused me of being "greedy and money-obsessed."

Abby, I helped her when she needed it! What should I do?

FURIOUS IN SAN FRANCISCO

DEAR FURIOUS: When your "friend" returns from her sea cruise, see if you can get her to agree to a repayment plan for the sake of YOUR mental—and financial—health. However, if she refuses, you may have to write off the loan as tuition in the school of experience. Your mistake was not getting the terms of the loan in writing.

DEAR ABBY: I have two sons who will graduate from college on the same day. My wife and I would like to attend both ceremonies, but for obvious reasons, we cannot. How do I resolve this dilemma?

FATHER IN TEXAS

DEAR FATHER: Divide and conquer. You attend one graduation and your wife the other. To decide which one, you and the Mrs. should draw straws.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for \$7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby - Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

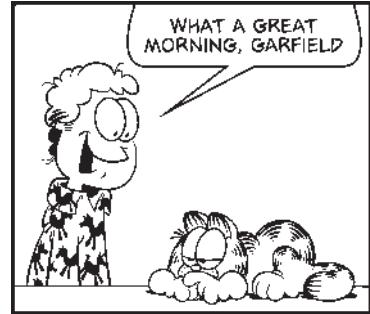
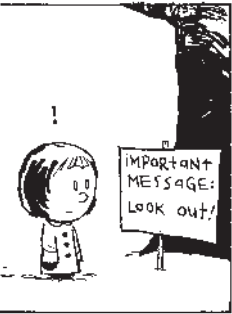
Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson

Garfield®

By Jim Davis

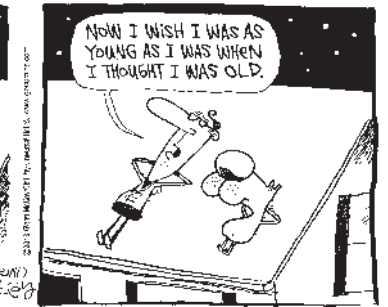
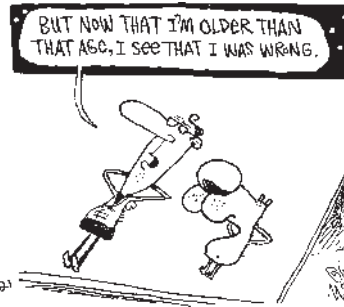
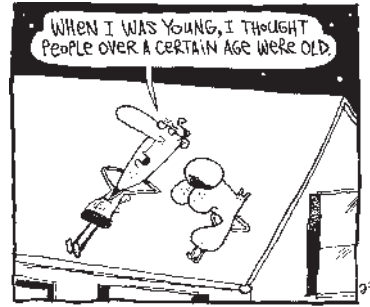


Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

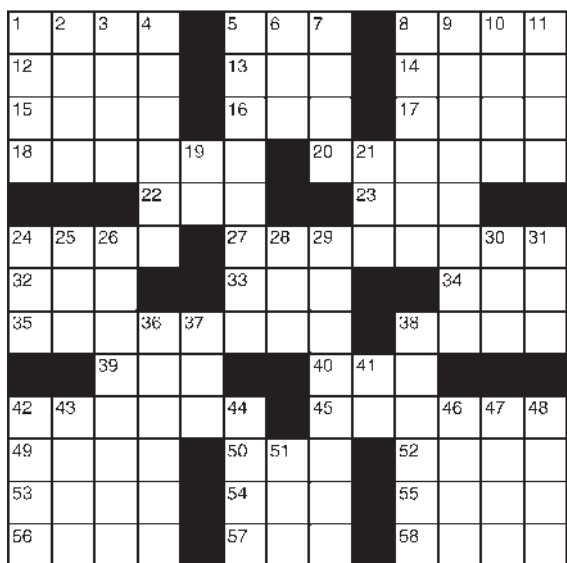
By Eugene Sheffer

- ACROSS**
- 1 Troubadour's instrument
- 5 Brit. fliers
- 8 Legal document
- 12 Tiny bit
- 13 Right angle
- 14 Present
- 15 Poetic foot
- 16 By way of
- 17 App symbol
- 18 Stingy, slangily
- 20 Major-ettes' props
- 22 One of the kin (Abbr.)
- 23 Yon maiden
- 24 Wait in hiding
- 27 Porches
- 32 Eisenhower
- 33 Before
- 34 Wapiti
- 35 Barack Obama, e.g.
- 38 Quarry
- 39 Affirmative
- 40 Blond shade
- 42 Baseball division
- 45 Weather-map line
- 49 Extinct bird
- 50 Web address
- 52 Author Morrison
- 53 Stead
- 54 "A pox upon thee!"
- 55 Not ignorant of
- 56 Blunders
- 57 Supporting
- 58 Method (Abbr.)
- DOWN**
- 1 Secular
- 2 Western state
- 3 Heavy reading
- 4 Set off on a journey
- 5 Six-gun, e.g.
- 6 "The Greatest"
- 7 Cellulite, e.g.
- 8 Bleach
- 9 Flute's cousin
- 10 Press
- 11 Saw-bucks
- 19 Gym class (Abbr.)
- 21 "Eureka!"
- 24 Cover
- 25 Luau
- 26 String around your finger
- 28 Geological period
- 29 Merchant
- 30 Hearty quaff
- 31 Firmament
- 36 Hateful
- 37 Inmate
- 38 Snapshots
- 41 Baseball position (Abbr.)
- 42 Not working
- 43 Bleak, in Hollywood
- 44 Verbal abuse
- 46 Skeletal
- 47 Picnic invaders
- 48 Laugh-a-minute
- 51 Carnival city

Solution time: 25 mins.



Yesterday's answer 2-21



STUMPED?

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-900-226-5955! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Ashley Green, 26; Ellen Page, 26; Jennifer Love Hewitt, 34; Kelsey Grammer, 58

Happy Birthday: You need to put a little more fun and excitement into your life. New hobbies, pastimes or physical challenges will help you discover a side of you that has been buried due to responsibilities. Let your imagination take over and you'll find a lifestyle that is rejuvenating. Communication skills will be amplified. Your numbers are 3, 8, 15, 24, 27, 33, 41.

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Listen to complaints and what it is people are asking for and you will have a better idea how to move forward. Being oblivious to others will lead to emotional stress and demands that you won't want to tackle. Avoid secret encounters. ★★

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Follow your intuition and you will end up exactly where you are supposed to be. Share feelings with someone who has common interests. Don't give in to indulgence. Too much of anything will depreciate your gains. ★★

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Steer clear of anyone looking for a favor that will deter you from reaching your personal or professional goals. Leave room to deal with a personal issue that arises between you and someone looking for more than what you have to offer. ★★

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Don't hesitate if an opportunity arises that allows you to mix business with pleasure. The

better acquainted you are with your colleagues, the further ahead you will get. Precision and decisiveness will raise your profile. Take control. ★★★

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Make whatever alterations are necessary to achieve happiness. Don't give in to demands being put on you by someone you feel is stifling you. A short trip will open your eyes to what's available if you are willing to make a move. ★★★

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Put practicality first. You may want to overreact to compensate for something, but you are best to keep things simple and to the point. Live by your rules, not what someone else wants you to do. ★★

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Let situations play out naturally and eventually everything will fall into place. A change in your relationships will benefit you in the end, so don't lament something you cannot alter. Love is in the stars and socializing is a must. ★★

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Visit people you admire or research a culture that you find fascinating. Incorporating ideals you feel akin to will enable you to fulfill a dream from long ago. Get involved in a creative endeavor that allows you to explore your talents. ★★

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Make changes at home that will secure your reputation and your future. Deception and disillusionment are present. Proceed with caution. Don't reveal personal information or it may end up costing you financially. ★★

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Utilize everything you studied or experienced in the past in order to complete a project. An unusual approach to an old idea will put you in a favorable position when dealing with potential partners. Personal investments will pay off. ★★



AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Learning and trying new pastimes will lead to an interesting meeting with someone who is trying to achieve similar goals. Larger quarters or closer proximity to others will add comfort, opportunity and joy to your life. ★★



PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Don't let anyone talk you in to doing things on too grand a scale. Minimizing your job duties will result in higher profits. Contracts should be drawn up and signed to keep everyone in check and contributing what's expected. ★★

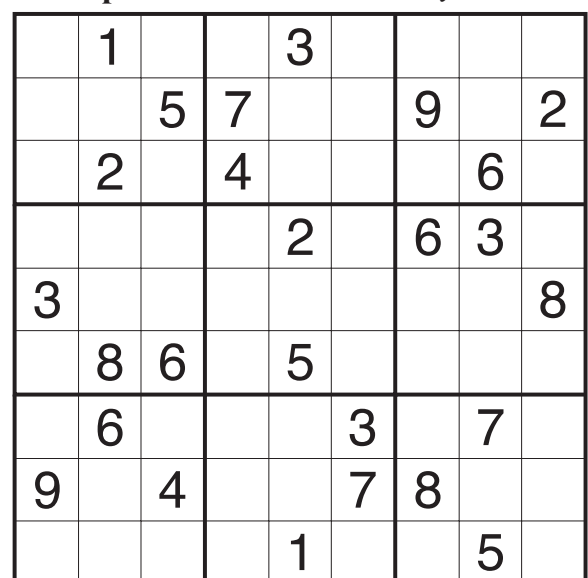
Birthday Baby: You are compassionate and proactive. You are outgoing, charming and original.

Eugenia's website—eugenialast.com, Eugenia's android app @ <http://bit.ly/exhoro> and join Eugenia on [twitter](https://twitter.com/eugenialast)/[facebook](https://facebook.com/eugenialast)/[linkedin](https://linkedin.com/company/eugenialast).

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

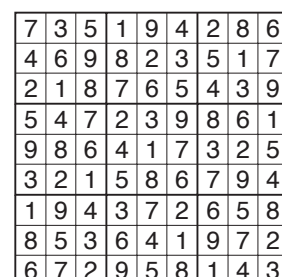


Difficulty Level ★★★

2/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer



Difficulty Level ★★★

2/21

WONDERWORD

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

STUFFED ANIMALS

Solution: 7 letters



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2/21 Alligator, Animals, Babies, Bean, Bees, Birds, Cartoon, Cats, Clothes, Colors, Comfort, Cotton, Cuddly, Deer, Dogs, Dolls, Fabric, Fish, Friend, Frogs, Handmade, Hippo, Horses, Insects, Koala, Large, Love, Mice, Miss, Monkey, Panda, Pets, Pillow, Plush, Polar, Rabbit, Safe, Seal, Security, Sewn, Sheep, Small, Soft, Stuffed, Talking, Teddy Bear, Tigers, Toys, Wool, Zebra

Yesterday's Answer: Shipping

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Johnson's OT buzzer-beater lifts Nets past Bucks



NEW YORK (AP)—Joe Johnson hit a tying 3-pointer in the closing seconds of the fourth quarter and then his buzzer-beating jumper at the end of overtime lifted the Brooklyn Nets to a 113-111 victory over the Milwaukee Bucks on Tuesday night.

Johnson finished with 24 points, and Brook Lopez and Deron Williams added 19 each as the Nets snapped a 13-game losing streak against the Bucks dating back to March 30, 2009.

Brandon Jennings scored 34 points to lead the Bucks. Ersan Ilyasova had 21 points, Monta Ellis added 18 and Larry Sanders 14.

Jennings saw his short jumper go in and out with 15 seconds left in overtime. After a Nets timeout, Johnson was intentionally fouled by Luc Mbah a Moute with 5 seconds left. The Nets inbounded again and Johnson won the game with his foul line jumper over Mbah a Moute.



Brooklyn Nets guard Joe Johnson (7) scores over Milwaukee Bucks forward Luc Mbah a Moute (12) with time expiring for a 113-111 overtime victory in their NBA basketball game at Barclays Center, Tuesday, Feb. 19, 2013 in New York.

Bulls 96, Hornets 87

In New Luol Deng scored 20 points and Chicago snapped a two-game skid.

The Bulls took the lead for good late in the first quarter, but didn't put the Hornets away until Deng's clutch jumper from the top of the key with 44.8 seconds left put Chicago up 94-87 after New Orleans had pulled within five points on Eric Gordon's 3-pointer.

Carlos Boozer added 17 points and 10 rebounds, and Joakim Noah had 15 points and 17 rebounds for Chicago, which outrebounded New Orleans 47-39 and had 15 second-chance points.

Gordon finished with 20 and Anthony Davis had 15 points and 10 rebounds for New Orleans, which saw its two-game winning streak snapped after committing nine of its 15 turnovers in the final quarter. Greivis Vasquez had 11 points and 10 assists.

Grizzlies 105, Pistons 91

In Auburn Hills, Michigan, Mike Conley scored 19 points, Zach Randolph had his 31st double-double and Memphis won its fourth straight game Tuesday night, 105-91 at Detroit.

Randolph had 15 points and 10 rebounds and the Grizzlies rode a strong second half to win in both teams' first game since the All Star break.

Brandon Knight and Jonas Jerebko each scored 13 points and Jose Calderon added 10 points and seven assists for the Pistons, who have lost two of their last three at home.

The Grizzlies trailed by as many as 11 points in the first half, but ended it on a 23-3 run to lead 53-42 at intermission. The Pistons managed just one basket in the final eight min-

utes of the half and had twice as many turnovers as field goals (8-4) in the second quarter.

Raptors 96, Wizards 88

In Washington, DeMar DeRozan and Rudy Gay scored 24 points apiece, and Toronto won a matchup between slow-starting, coming-on-lately teams.

Playing with an improvised scoreboard, horn, game clock and 24-second clock because of a malfunction in the scoring system, the Raptors took the lead for good in the second quarter and won their fifth straight game, putting them one victory shy of last season's total.

The Raptors have also won three in a row on the road for the first time since 2007 and are 6-2 since Gay arrived last month from the Memphis Grizzlies in a three-team trade.

Rookie Bradley Beal, back in the starting lineup for the first time since taking time off to heal a sprained right wrist, scored 25 points for the Wizards, who had won eight of nine at home.

Bobcats 105, Magic 92

In Orlando, Florida, Kemba Walker and Gerald Henderson each had 24 points, Byron Mullens added 20 points and 12 rebounds and Charlotte survived Orlando's second-half comeback.

Mullens has had at least 20 points and 10 rebounds in three of the Bobcats' last five games.

The Bobcats have won two of their last three and also snapped a string of seven consecutive road losses. Charlotte begins a three-game home stand on Wednesday against Detroit.

Nikola Vucevic had 18 points and 11 rebounds and Arron Afflalo 18 points to lead the Magic, who have lost 25 of their last 28, including 13 of 15 at home.

Suns 102, Trail Blazers 98

In Portland, Ore., Goran Dragic had 16 points and a career-high 18 assists as Phoenix snapped a four-game losing streak.

Wesley Johnson came off the bench to score a season-high 14 points for the Suns, who led by as many as 19 points and survived a late Portland rally.

J.J. Hickson had 25 points and 16 rebounds for his 28th double-double of the season for the Blazers, who lost their sixth straight to match their season-high

The Blazers pulled to within 96-92 on rookie Damian Lillard's 3-pointer with 3:57 left in the game. Marcin Gortat's dunk and Luis Scola's layup slowed the rally, but Nicolas Batum made a 3-pointer to close the Blazers within 100-95 with 2:35 to go.

Spurs 108, Kings 102

In Sacramento, California, Tony Parker had 30 points and 11 assists to give San Antonio its 15th win in their last 16 games.

Danny Green scored 21 points, including 5-for-8 shooting on 3-pointers, for the Spurs, who have the top overall record in the NBA (43-12) as well as the best road mark (21-10). Kawhi Leonard added 15 points and Manu Ginobili 12 as San Antonio won at Sacramento for the 10 straight time.

Boris Diaw had 10 points and Tim Duncan added nine points and 14 rebounds for the Spurs.

Isaiah Thomas scored 22 points for the Kings, who have dropped three straight. Tyreke Evans had 20 points, Marcus Thornton added 16, and Jason Thompson and DeMarcus Cousins had 11 each.

Nuggets 97, Celtics 90

In Denver, Danilo Gallinari and

Ty Lawson each scored 26 points to help Denver snap a three-game losing streak.

Andre Miller and Kosta Koufos added 11 points apiece and Kenneth Faried had 16 rebounds to go with his seven points to help the Nuggets gain a split of their season series with Boston, which beat Denver in triple overtime last week to end the Nuggets' nine-game winning streak and start their losing streak.

Jeff Green had 20 points off the bench to lead the Celtics, who have been playing well despite losing Rajon Rondo (torn ACL), Jared Sullinger (back surgery) and Leandro Barbosa (torn ACL) to season-ending injuries in the past month.

Avery Bradley added 17 points and Courtney Lee had 15 for the Celtics, who lost their fourth in a row to the Nuggets in Denver.

Jazz 115, Warriors 101

In Salt Lake City, Al Jefferson scored 24 points, Gordon Hayward added 17 in his return from a shoulder injury and Utah extended Golden State's losing streak to six games.

Seven Jazz players scored in double figures, and Utah got 47 points from its reserves.

The Jazz made 10 of 21 3-pointers, including three by Randy Foye.

Stephen Curry led Golden State with 29 points, Jarrett Jack had 19 off the bench and David Lee contributed 18 on 9-of-13 shooting.

Lee's runner and Curry's fourth 3-pointer pulled the Warriors within 93-87 with 9:47 remaining. That's as close as they would get.

Paul Millsap's turnaround jumper ignited a 6-0 Utah run and the Jazz held the Warriors to 30 percent shooting in the fourth.

Bryant, Kupchak endorse Buss heirs

EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP)—Kobe Bryant and general manager Mitch Kupchak endorsed the children of the late Jerry Buss as worthy heirs to running the Los Angeles Lakers.

Bryant said Tuesday that the six siblings are "following the greatest owner in sports," but he believes that in their own way the Buss offspring will have success.

"It's tough to follow in those shoes," he said before the Lakers' first practice since the All-Star break. "It's important to take the lessons he's taught and try to carry it on to the future."

The elder Buss died Monday at age 80 of kidney failure as a complication of the cancer that he had struggled with for the last 18 months. A memorial service for invited guests only will be held Thursday at Nokia Theatre across from Staples Center.

"We have a great opportunity to carry on his legacy," said Kupchak, who first joined the Lakers as a player in 1981 and became the team's assistant GM under Jerry West after his playing days ended in 1986.

Some of the lessons Bryant said he learned from Buss were "to be patient, not rush decisions. When you believe in something you act despite what public opinion would be. He always stuck to his guns and made sound decisions on what was right for the team."

Now those decisions will be made by Buss' children: the four oldest—Jim, Jeanie, Johnny and Janie Drexel that he had with wife JoAnn—and the two youngest—Jesse and Joey that he had with an ex-girlfriend.

"Everybody seems to work well together, but don't think for one minute there isn't an adjustment period," Kupchak said. "We've always had one voice and we'll see. I don't anticipate a problem."

It was Jerry Buss' wish that his children run the team after his death. The family owns a majority stake in the franchise, with AEG chairman Philip Anschutz, doctor Patrick Soon-Shion and real estate magnate Ed Roski holding minority shares.

The family ownership stake will now be held in a trust. The team cannot be sold off in smaller pieces, only in its two-thirds entirety, according to longtime Buss family spokesman Bob Steiner.

"The entity cannot be split," Steiner said Monday.

Jeanie will take over as the team's governor, which gives her the power to voice the Lakers' vote on issues at owners' meetings. She has been the team's alternate governor for several years but now takes over for her late father.

"Nobody understands what this franchise means to the city of Los Angeles better than Jeanie and Jimmy,"

said Kupchak, adding that he feels he "grew up" with the four oldest Buss children—who range in age from their late 40s to mid-50s.

In recent years, Jim Buss has been working with Kupchak making the team's basketball decisions while Jeanie Buss has handled the club's business dealings. Kupchak said Jim Buss is his boss.

"He's very strong in his opinions yet if I feel strongly, he'll defer, which is what his dad did," Kupchak said.

With the trade deadline looming on Thursday, Kupchak said he doesn't "anticipate anything dramatic in the next two days."

He reiterated that there are no plans to trade center Dwight Howard, despite rumors to the contrary.

"He's been saying that for 1 1/2 to two months," Howard said. "There's always rumors swirling around. I'm not going to let the stuff that's been happening defeat me as a person."

Despite his declining health, Buss watched all the team's games and he was "very involved" in the decision to fire Mike Brown and hire Mike D'Antoni as coach early in the season.

"The organization has always been first-class and I think it will stay that way," said D'Antoni, who never met Buss but called him "the best owner ever in any sport."

Kupchak said Buss' children follow a routine in their work habits unlike their father.

"You might see him leaving the office at 9 in the morning. His hours were unusual," he said, smiling. "With the family members, it's more predictable. Jeanie is in the office every day."

Jim and Jeanie are most closely tied to the Lakers. Janie handles the team's youth foundation from afar, while Jesse is learning to be a scout and has what Kupchak calls "a keen eye." Johnny, who previously ran the WNBA's Sparks when his father owned that team, hasn't been that involved with the Lakers. Joey is president of the D-Fenders of the NBA's D-League.

Bryant recalled visiting Buss in the hospital on a day when the owner was in good spirits. They discussed Bryant's career, which began when the Lakers acquired him as a 17-year-old, Magic Johnson and the "Showtime" era Lakers, and the rival Boston Celtics.

"That was a good day," said Bryant, who grew up a Lakers fan and cited Buss as having a "profound" impact on his career.

The Lakers will wear patches with the initials 'JB' on their jerseys for the rest of the season. The elder Buss will be honored before the Lakers host the Celtics on Wednesday night.

US, Iran find common ground: Olympic wrestling

TEHRAN, Iran (AP)—The caretakers of the Olympics may have inadvertently accomplished what has eluded diplomats: Galvanizing Iran and the U.S. on a common goal.

Wrestling officials from the arch foes appeared to be in bonding mode Tuesday on the sidelines of a Tehran tournament less than a week after the stunning decision by the International Olympic Committee that will force the ancient sport—as old as the Olympics themselves—to lobby for a spot at the 2020 Games.

Already, the fight to keep wrestling in the Olympics has brought the U.S. and Cuban federations into a possible alliance. But close cooperation between Iran and America would be an even more remarkable display of common cause with almost everything else driving them apart—led by an impasse over Tehran's nuclear program and Western sanctions that have upended the Iranian economy.

It's unlikely that any kind of wrestling detente would spill over into the wider issues, but it's certain to at least draw attention to the power of sports as a low-risk icebreaker going back to the historic 1971 "pingpong diplomacy" between China and the U.S.

U.S. freestyle coach Zeke Jones, speaking to The Associated Press by phone from Tehran, said that officials from 10 of the world's top wrestling nations will meet Wednesday in Iran. Delegations from Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bulgaria, Georgia, Iran, Japan, Kazakhstan, the United States, Russia and Turkey will gather to discuss how to reverse the IOC's decision.

Jones said that those countries were chosen because they finished in the top 10 in the freestyle competition at the 2011 world championships, the last time team scores were held at a major international meet.

"We'll be standing arm-in-arm with Iran, and we'll be standing with Russia as we will with lots of other countries,"



U.S. National freestyle wrestling coach Zeke Jones, left, arrives with his team at the Imam Khomeini airport in Tehran, Iran, early Tuesday morning, Feb. 19, 2013, to attend World Cup tournament.

said Mitch Hull, national teams director for USA Wrestling, in an interview in Tehran with AP Television News before the World Cup Tournament.

"Those (countries) really do make a difference because politically we're not always on the same page, or politically with Russia, but in wrestling, there's no doubt that we are all together in this effort and we consider Iran one of our strongest allies in the sport of wrestling," Hull said.

Hull described them as "sport rivals, but they are friends in sport, too."

"We have great confidence that we can work with the Iranian wrestling federation, Iranian wrestlers and the Iranian people to show the world that, no matter what's happening politically, we have the same goal and the same belief and passion about the sport of wrestling," he said.

Jones said that the World

Cup, which ranks below only the world championships in annual importance, has come at a "perfect time," given the IOC's recent move.

Though Jones acknowledged that relations between international wrestling teams like the U.S. and Iran can be difficult, he said such competitions usually foster the kind of camaraderie and friendship the sport desperately needs.

"You'll have absolutely zero problem with the countries being unified on saving wrestling," Jones said. "The countries will do anything in working together to keep Olympic wrestling in the program."

Hojatollah Khatib, the head of Iran's wrestling federation, said the tournament would offer "the best opportunity to confront the decision" to drop the sport from the Olympics.

"We should resist the decision, determinedly," Khatib was quoted by the semiofficial Mehr news agency as saying. "We should show our unity in the current event."

On Monday, U.S. wrestling officials agreed to create a special committee charged with seeking to save Olympic wrestling, which will remain in the 2016 Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro.

But it must compete against seven other events—including squash, roller sports and wakeboarding—for one open slot in the 2020 Games, which have yet to be awarded to a host city.

Iran also has said it is looking to join wrestling's "big powers" to reverse the IOC decision. Last week, Iran's wrestling federation and its Olympic committee

said they would send a protest letter to the IOC.

The independent Etemad newspaper ran a report that described the "axis" of wrestling—Iran, the United States and Russia—as joining forces to keep the sport in the Olympics.

For Iran, it's a mission of serious importance. Wrestling is considered by many to be something of a national sport—not as popular as soccer or with the deep Persian roots of polo, but one that gives Iran a chance to shine in international competitions. Wrestling also is Iran's major medal sport at the Olympics.

Iran won three gold medals, its first in the Greco-Roman division, out of six overall in wrestling at the London Games, and the U.S. took two gold medals out of four overall.

"Do we destroy our historical sites which are symbols of humanity? No. Then, why should

we destroy wrestling?" Iranian gold medalist Ali Reza Dabir said shortly after the IOC decision on Feb. 13.

In the current 14-team World Cup tournament in Tehran, the U.S. is joined by other freestyle wrestling powers including Russia and many of the former Soviet republics. Last week, Alexander Mamiashvili, the head of the Russian wrestling federation, said President Vladimir Putin had ordered a committee be formed to contest the IOC decision.

Despite the shared dismay over wrestling's Olympic snub, Iran's state media had only limited reports on the arrival of the American wrestlers—perhaps linked to the official anger over the sanctions that have hit Iran's critical oil exports and black-listed the country from international financial networks.

The cool reception is in distinct contrast to the almost celebrity welcome given in 1998 to the first U.S. wrestlers who competed in Iran since the 1979 Islamic Revolution that collapsed ties between the two countries. Washington cut relations after the U.S. Embassy was stormed, leading to 52 Americans being held hostage for 444 days.

U.S. sports team now make occasional appearances in Iran, but the two countries often compete together in international events.

There also have been some false starts.

In 2009, Iran invited the U.S. women's badminton team to compete in a tournament, then denied visas by saying there was not enough time to process the applications. In late 2011, Iran bowed out of an invitational table tennis exhibition tournament in Qatar that included the U.S., North Korea and Pakistan.

The U.S. has sent more than 30 athletes to Iran under a sports exchange program launched in 2007, and more than 75 Iranian athletes and coaches have visited the United States.

LONDON (AP)—As Oscar Pistorius offered his first defense against a murder charge, the head of the Paralympics was trying to reassure members Tuesday that the organization has a strong future even without its star athlete.

International Paralympic Committee President Philip Craven told The Associated Press he has been in a state of "shock and disbelief" since Pistorius was arrested Thursday in the shooting of his girlfriend, Reeva Steenkamp.

Having been central to plans to maintain the momentum from the record-breaking Paralympics last year, Pistorius has now been forced to pull out of all future races.

The South African helped to generate unprecedented interest in disability sports by becoming the first double amputee sprinter to compete at the Olympics. Now

Paralympics refocuses on future without Pistorius

Craven is acting quickly to ensure the Paralympics' progress is not damaged by the fallout from Pistorius' high-profile case.

"We've got so many stars coming through that this will not be an issue," Craven said.

"Even since this tragedy happened, it's still been 'London, London, London' and what happened there—a unique moment in times that still continues in the hearts and minds of people."

And in a letter to IPC members on Tuesday, Craven sought to shift attention from the "difficult and traumatic day" regarding Pistorius to remind how the London Paralympics succeeded in creating "a whole host of young world-class, medal-winning athletes."

Craven pointed to British

sprinter Jonnie Peacock, who deposed Pistorius as 100-meter champion at the Paralympics, and Alan Oliveira, who took the 200 title in front of a crowd of some 80,000 in the London Olympic Stadium.

"It's upon their shoulders that the Paralympic movement will be moving forward and it's still continuing to be the most exciting times after London," Craven said by phone from the IPC winter sports championships in Spain.

Craven has experienced a "roller-coaster of emotion" since he was awakened Thursday with the news of the killing. Pistorius said at a bail hearing Tuesday that he mistook his girlfriend for a robber and the shooting was an accident, not premeditated murder.

"Shock and disbelief," Craven recalled of his initial thoughts. "I could not believe what I was hearing ... because of this total difference between Oscar, the person I knew—I won't say very well but I had interacted with him on many occasions in press conferences etc. and seen him compete—and the Oscar we were hearing about now in the media and with what happened."

Craven said he had not witnessed any change in Pistorius' mindset at the Paralympics even when the runner created a storm by suggesting rival Oliveira was gaining an unfair advantage by using lengthened blades.

"In the heat of competition—I remember when I was a wheelchair basketball player—the redness would come down par-

ticularly if I didn't agree with certain refereeing decisions, and I've seen it in other athletes," Craven said. "I think it's something that happens all the time in athletic competitions."

He said the dispute about the blades didn't bother him, and "didn't make me think there was anything different in London (with Pistorius) to what there had been before."

Craven has not made contact with the 26-year-old Pistorius since the Valentine's Day arrest. The Paralympic chief has expressed the organization's condolences to the family of Steenkamp, the model and law graduate who was cremated Tuesday at a memorial service in Port Elizabeth, South Africa.

Craven wants IPC members

to "respect" the justice system.

"This is a police case and we have to remain impartial at all times," he said. "The South African law courts will decide Oscar's fate over the coming months and only then will the full story of what actually happened emerge."

The case has delayed planned announcements on television rights sales for the 2014 Winter Games in Sochi, Russia, and the 2016 Summer Games in Rio de Janeiro.

The IPC has yet to find a U.S. network to show its competitions live after NBC was criticized for broadcasting only 5 1/2 hours of Paralympic highlights from London.

"Meetings have taken place with U.S. television stations with a view to things being put right, definitely by Rio, if not by Sochi," Craven said.

Catalla takes A-main plum in February races

»Salalila wins Open field

By **WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND**
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REPORTER

Rodney Catalla and Paul Salalila came away the winners of the Saipan Radio Control Racers' 2013 February races held last Feb. 10 at the club track in As Lito.

Catalla swept the A-main 1/10 electric short course class over Jude Dickenson and Paul Salalila.

His HPI Blitz stock truck took

the pole in the qualifying heats and showed its brass in the main event with a wire to wire win.

Catalla maintained a 27:27-second average per lap with his best lap (7) clocked at 26:42 seconds and completed the 12-lap race in 5:27:29.

Dickinson (5:41:30) settled for runner up honors in front of Salalila (5:41:53) after a dogfight

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Butter Dickinson's TraXXas Slash truck, left, flies through a double jump during one of SRCR's February race series held at the club's track in As Lito.



for second; both rivals drove TraXXas Slash trucks.

Notably, Jojo Saracho led the opening lap in the mix, but was forced to pull out of the race just three laps later.

Salalila fared better in the Open division 1/10 electric short course event with his Kyosho Ultima SC-R truck. According to those in attendance, Salalila exhibited a very strong run and never looked back after securing the lead on the second lap.

He went on to lead the remaining 11 laps by maintaining a rotation average of 29:58 seconds to take the checkered flag in 5:54:99; his best lap (4) was

clocked at 29:14-seconds.

In the end, Dickinson played the role of bridesmaid once again, this time with his Kyosho Ultima SC-R, while top qualifier Saracho finished third in his Team Durango DSCR410R truck.

The pair was not too far off Salalila's pace, but were too tangled up in dealing with each other to catch him and came in at, 6:01:84 and 6:05:57, respectively; Catalla (6:25:55) finished fourth.

SRCR's B-Main stock and Young Gun results were not provided.

The SRCR has over 20 active members, and growing, which regularly take part in practices every Sunday in As Lito.

The group tries to hold a day-long monthly event in their four racing categories. The public is welcome to check out the track and learn more about the hobby.

Contact Rodney Catalla at 256-7119 for more information.

Tan Holdings is once again sponsoring a three-mile walk and fundraiser this Saturday in memory of former Tan Holdings executive John "JP" Pangelinan.

Tan Holdings employees and their family members are encouraged to participate in the event dubbed as "JP Walk." The company will pay the \$5 registration fee for every employee who will join the walk. Members of the community are also invited to join the event that aims to raise funds for the Marianas March Against Cancer.

Registration starts at 5am at the pavilion in front of the JP Centre along Beach Road. Refreshments, raffle prizes, and entertainment will be available at the end of the walk at the Susupe Beach Park.

JP Walk this Saturday



CLARISSA V. DAVID
JP Walk participants pose for a group photo after completing the 3-mile walk from the JP Center in Garapan to the Susupe Beach Park.

Pangelinan was the publisher of the *Saipan Tribune*. He was born on Saipan on Oct. 26, 1937 and died on Feb. 5, 2008, after a long, brave battle with cancer.

"He left us five years ago but his memory will remain indelible for those who have been lucky enough to know him. Whether as a colleague, a friend,

an uncle, or a dad, JP was the quintessential gentleman, full of compassion and good cheer, always smiling and not above a naughty joke once in a while," stated in a Tan Holdings press release.

Besides his sense of humor, JP knew how to give praise to those who were doing well in their jobs. His thoughtfulness and his capacity to give praise where it is due made him the ideal boss. Yet he was also not one to mince words if he thinks you need to shape up. He was such a kind-hearted person, though, that he will say it in a manner that won't hurt, the statement added.

For more information about the JP Walk, send email to becky_tenorio@tanholdings.com (PR)

BLUE

From Page 28

ball legend Koo Luam Khen, a veteran of Malaysia's 1972 Olympic campaign and former head coach of Hong Kong. The Men's National Team is made up of 20 CNMI residents who are also United States citizens.

The Challenge Cup is an international football competition for Asian Football Confederation (AFC) member nations that are categorized as "emerging" countries. The Northern Mari-

anas Islands Football Association is currently an associate member of AFC and is one of the youngest football associations in the world. Competing in tournaments such as the Challenge Cup is one of the requirements the NMIFA must fulfill in order to become a full member of AFC.

The AFC Challenge Cup was specifically created for lesser-developed football nations to gain experience playing in international competitions. The three qualifying games in Nepal will be the NMIFA Men's National Team's

first in an AFC-sanctioned international competition. Should they do well enough to qualify for the next round of competition, they will advance to the finals of the Challenge Cup will be held in the Maldives Islands in 2014. North Korea is the defending champion, but is not eligible to compete since it is now classified as a "fully developed" football nation.

The 20 CNMI players include Joe Miller, Jehn Joyner, Jireh Yobech, Tim Tawanpiy, Sean Perez, Ruselle Zapanta, Raphael Zapanta, Jake Tiger Lee, Steve McKagan, Peter

Loken, Dan Westphal, Trey Dunn, Lucas Knecht, Bo Barry, Yuki Adachi, Nick Swaim, Dae Won Jeon, Chris Nelson, Evan Hunsberger, and Johann Noetzel. The official delegation includes NMIFA president Jerry Tan, head coach Luam Khen Koo, assistant coach Chi Ming Tang, assistant coach Ho Man Chen, Wesley M. Bogdan, Norman del Rosario, and Pamela Carhill. The Men's National Team is supported in part by local companies such as IT&E and Marianas Health Services. (NMIFA)

In the boys 100m backstroke, which drew 18 participants, Suzuki recorded the best time of 46.98 seconds, surpassing his previous mark of 47.10 seconds. Also setting PBTs were Sato (47.80 seconds), Jinno-suke Suzuki (54.65), Xu Hans (57.65 seconds), Sam Ryu (1:05.73), and Richard Villagomez (1:06.33).

Meanwhile, four other events were scheduled in last weekend's competition and 20-plus more PBTs and one CNMI age group mark was recorded, but results of the second half of the meet will be reported in *Saipan Tribune's* Friday edition.

being held beachside at Fiesta Resort on Wednesdays from 4pm to 6pm and on Saturday mornings from 8am to 10am.

The NMIVA is always in need of more volunteers.

Visit www.nmivolleyball.org for more information.

PBTS

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race in 1:05.98, surpassing her 1:06.95, while Kaga dropped more than seven seconds from her previous PBT (1:43.25) after posting 1:35.43. Conatsu's younger sister Coume also got a PBT, timing in at 1:51.37 (from 1:55.43), while Mylan Goodwin had the biggest drop in the field and the entire tournament (about 28 seconds) after clocking in at 2:05.73 and eclipsing her 2:33.18.

In the boys 100m freestyle, the Top 4 finishers gained PBT

with Suzuki leading the way with his 1:24.33, followed by David Boyer (1:26.38), Rinto Takahashi (1:28.56), and Taiyo Akimaru (1:43.99). Miku Torres also joined the nine-swimmer field and was the fifth one to set a new PBT at 1:54.75, more than two seconds faster than his old mark (1:57.15).

For the fourth event of the day—the 50m butterfly—four of the six swimmers entered in the race earned PBT. Kento Akimaru of SSC had the fastest time at 33.79 seconds, which shattered his old PBT of 33.84. David Boyer of SSC and Mark Maestro of Tsunami also had

PBTs with their 47.02 seconds and 49.65 seconds, respectively, while lone female competitor Jin Ju Thomson of SSC logged 55.22 seconds to break her previous mark (56.69 seconds).

There were also four PBTs made in the girls 100m backstroke. Tsunami's Karen Irinaka got the first one and was also the fastest in the field with her 51.79 seconds, more than five seconds better than her old record (57.14). Sister Coume and Conatsu also set PBTs with their 55.43 seconds and 55.96 seconds, respectively, while Goodwin completed the Top 4 with her PBT of 1:07.66.

by overcoming eventual third placer Managaha (21-19, 21-9) in the lower bracket semis.

Aside from Fiesta Resort, Godfather's Beach Bar, Brabu, KZMI 103.9 FM, and Gold's Gym also sponsor the event, proceeds of which will benefit

NMIVA's youth volleyball development programs and international travel expenses.

Free youth clinics ongoing

NMIVA's free youth training practices are still ongoing and are

SECOND

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performance in Games 1 and 2 (149 and 145). She improved in the last two games (175 and 163) for an average of 160.50 and a five-pinfal advantage over Sablan. Sablan tallied 162, 152, 167, and 156 for a 159.25 average.

Other female keglers who joined last weekend's tournament were Carol McKenzie (621), Diane Chong (617), Lala Taitano (611), Tess Fabie (597), Ron Cal (594), and Linda Yarobwemal (558).

Manacop, Lee prevail

In the King of the Lanes, 2012 champion Simon Manacop got his first win in 2013, besting 22 other participants in the February roll-offs.

Manacop, who fell short in the season opener after losing his Day 1 lead to January winner Raymond Zapanta, bowled in Day 2 of the February event and blew out the competition with his 910 pinfalls. The Department of Public Safety official was the only male bowler to nail at least 900 pinfalls and was way ahead of runner-up Percy Omechelang, who mustered only 795 pinfalls. Paul Pangeli-

nan rounded out the Top 3 with his 771 pinfalls.

After missing the 200-pinfal mark in Game 1 (198), Manacop was unstoppable in the last three games, recording 242, 227, and 243 for an impressive average of 227.50. Manacop's 242 was the second best score in a single game behind the 259 of Omechelang, who also carded 186, 147, and 203 for a 198.75 average. Pangelinan also had two 200-plus games (203 and 231) to go with his 197 and 158 and averaged 192.75.

Other participants in the February roll-offs were Alex Castro (767), Bernard Paraiso (762), Yong Woon Lee (759), Robert Talavera (759), Raphael Zapanta (755), Lito Teodoro (746), Arnel Ibarreta (675), Randy Abreau (671), Jae Young Kim (665), Edward Baluyan (655), Jerry Kaneshi (645), Tito Corpuz (639), Ben Aizon (631), Edgar Abalos (627), J.R. Teodoro (617), Tony Yarobwemal (603), Ramir De Leon (602), Ronald Batac (574), and Jorge Soledad (574).

Meanwhile, the Fiji Water Prince of the Lanes, newcomer Ji Hoon Lee defeated two other youth players. Lee collected 564 pinfalls to beat fellow rookie Sam Soledad (468) and Marcel McKenzie (421).

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS					WESTERN CONFERENCE				
EASTERN CONFERENCE					Southwest Division				
Atlantic Division					San Antonio	43	12	.782	—
W					Memphis	34	18	.654	7 1/2
L					Houston	29	26	.527	14
Pct					Dallas	23	29	.442	18 1/2
GB					New Orleans	19	35	.352	23 1/2
New York	32	18	.640	—	Northwest Division				
Brooklyn	32	22	.593	2	Oklahoma City	39	14	.736	—
Boston	28	25	.528	5 1/2	Denver	34	21	.618	6
Philadelphia	22	29	.431	10 1/2	Utah	31	24	.564	9
Toronto	22	32	.407	12	Portland	25	29	.463	14 1/2
Southeast Division					Minnesota	19	31	.380	18 1/2
Miami	36	14	.720	—	Pacific Division				
Atlanta	29	22	.569	7 1/2	L.A. Clippers	39	17	.696	—
Washington	15	37	.288	22	Golden State	30	23	.566	7 1/2
Orlando	15	38	.283	22 1/2	L.A. Lakers	25	29	.463	13
Charlotte	13	40	.245	24 1/2	Sacramento	19	36	.345	19 1/2
Central Division					Phoenix	18	36	.333	20
Indiana	32	21	.604	—	BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS				
Chicago	31	22	.585	1					
Milwaukee	26	26	.500	5 1/2					
Detroit	21	34	.382	12					
Cleveland	16	37	.302	16					

VACOS

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Man'amko (21-16) and the Managaha Boyz (15-8, 15-6) before falling to its rivals, but earned a chance for redemption

2013 White Coconut Tennis Classic Week 1

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Hana Nelson goes for a baseline return to Mimi Sakano during their girls U12 singles game in the 2013 White Coconut Tennis Classic last Sunday at the American Memorial Park tennis courts.



Jamit Elliot has all eyes on the ball.



Michael Ren receives Tommy Choi's strong serve.



Vincent Tudela serves, while teammate Daniel Park gets ready near the net.



Amami Sakano, left, exchange hi-fives with Isabel Heras after scoring a point against Daniel Park and Vincent Tudela during their mixed-up doubles semis match.



Tommy Choi hits a backhand slice during his and Emily Jones' semis game against Kinumi Taniguchi and Michael Ren in the mixed-up doubles.



Mimi Sakano makes a backhand return to Hana Nelson.



Eugene Park serves against Jamin Elliot during their boys U10 singles match.



Negahr Rastguir serves against Mikayla Lopez during their girls U18 singles title match.



Dylan Ackerman reacts after scoring a point against Michael Ren during their boys U15 singles title game.



Johnson's OT buzzer-beater lifts Nets past Bucks

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Saipan Tribune Sports

US, Iran find common ground: Olympic wrestling

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SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Blue Ayuyus off to AFC tourney



Adachi



Barry



Dunn



Hunsberger



Jeon



Joyner



Knecht



Lee



Loken



McKagan



Miller



Nelson



Noetzel



Perez



Ra. Zapanta



Ru. Zapanta



Swaim



Tawanpi



Westphal



Yobech

The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association Men's National Team will be leaving early Saturday morning to compete in the Asian Football Confederation 2014 Challenge Cup in Kathmandu, Nepal.

The Men's National Team, dubbed the Blue Ayuyus, will play three preliminary round qualifying games against Nepal, Palestine, and Bangladesh. The three games will be held from March 2 to



6. The first match versus Nepal will be played on March 2 at the Dashrath Stadium, Kathmandu. The Men's National Team will be coached by Malaysian foot- See BLUE on Page 26

PBTs flood in NMISF swim meet

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



CNMI swimmers continued to show significant improvement this season, as 28 more personal best times were recorded in the first half alone of the Northern Mariana Islands Swimming Federation's third meet held at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool last Saturday.

The 28 PBTs were made in the first five events scheduled for the weekend meet, which featured swimmers from both the Saipan Swim Club and the Tsunami Saipan Swimmer Center.

Tsunami bets and siblings Daime and Kyona Rivera started the competition, joining the 100m breaststroke. Kyona completed the race in 1:55.87, chop-



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Saipan Swim Club coach Jacoby Winkfield, center, poses with Jin Ju Thompson, left, and Mylan Goodwin after the two swimmers posted personal best times last Saturday during the NMISF meet at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

ping more than eight seconds from her previous PBT or seed time of 2:03.88. The older Rivera submitted 1:41.99.

In the boys 100m breaststroke, SSC's Taiga Sato recorded the fastest time at 1:50.64, which is his new PBT, about 12 seconds better than his previous mark of 2:02.65. Sato's teammates Akira Kadokura and R.J. Pierce also set new PBT with their 1:57.07 and 2:12.53, respectively, while Christian Villacrusis had his first official 100m breaststroke race and posted a field second best time of 1:53.21.

For the second event of the day—the 100m backstroke, Sato logged the only PBT in the race, timing in at 1:41.53, less than two second behind top finisher and SSC's Lennosuke Susuki (1:39.89).

In the girls 100m freestyle, SSC's Victoria Chentsova and Contasu Kaga recorded the Top 2 bets times and also earned PBTs. Chentsova completed the See PBTs on Page 26

Second in a row for Yho

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Yho Villavicencio picked up where she left off, ruling the Saipan Bowling Association/Budweiser February Queen of the Lanes tournament held over the weekend at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Villavicencio, who topped the January roll-offs, beating nine other female

keglers to take the first two monthly crowns this season. Her four-game total of 728 pinfalls in Day 1 of the February roll-offs last Saturday was undefeated, as Day 2 top finisher Elena Soll only managed 633 pinfalls last Sunday. Soll settled for fourth place, Gloria Omechelang and Gina Sablan completed the Top 3 after earning 642 and 637 pinfalls, respectively, in Day 1.

Bowlers are allowed to compete for two days, but only the higher score is counted. In the first day of the monthly tournament, Villavicencio started strong with her 223 pinfalls. She then logged 166, 168, and 171 for an average of 182 and was the only bowler in the field to collect at least 700 pinfalls.

Omechelang faltered on her bid for her first win this season after a so-so See SECOND on Page 26



Villavicencio

Vacos rise in Sunset Coed Beach v-ball

By WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER



Vacos' foursome of J.R. Gechig, Wilton Laniyo, John Nekaifes, and Mili Saiki survived Dig This, Beaches after a six-set ordeal to win the Northern Mariana Islands Volleyball Association's Sunset Coed Beach Volleyball Tournament last Friday at Fiesta Resort & Spa.

Scoring was formatted as a best-of-three-set series, in which Vacos held a twice-to-beat advantage as the upper bracket qualifier among the eight competing teams.

Dig This, Beaches would rise to the occasion with a late charge, 25-6, and, 15-

11, to force the second tiebreaker series after dropping the opening set, 14-25.

Vacos bit down, however, and took the ensuing opening set, 25-17, and though Dig This, Beaches evened the score once again in the second face off, 25-21, the eventual champs caught fire in the clutch and imposed a swift ending under the lights, 15-5.

The group split a \$300 cash prize and lunch buffet coupons compliments of Fiesta Resort.

Coming into the finals, Vacos rode a wave of victories over Managaha (21-19), Harapwang Face (15-6, 15-12) and Dig This, Beaches (18-21, 21-13, 15-12).

Dig This, Beaches advanced past See VACOS on Page 26



WALTER CEPEDA SUTHERLAND
From left, Vacos' J.R. Gechig, Wilton Laniyo, Mili Saiki, and John Nekaifes pose for a group photo after winning NMIVA's Sunset Coed Beach Volleyball Tournament last Friday at Fiesta Resort & Spa.